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British history william the conqueror

William the Conqueror in chronicle of battle abbey (Cotton MS Domitian A II, f.47)
William, Duke of Normandy, conquered England in 1066. His conquests had major implications for the history of both regions, from displacing most pre-Conquest Anglo-Saxon nobility to reshape the English language. William William's early life was the son of Robert I, Duke of Normandy (1027–1035), and a woman of lower social status named Herleva. Through his mother, William had two half-brothers: Odo, the bishop who commissioned the Bayeux Tapestry; and Robert, who became Count of Mortain. William's two half-brothers gave him important support later in his career. Robert II died in 1035, making William Duke of Normandy seven or eight years old. In the early years of his reign, William's control of Normandy was challenged by various nobles and relatives. He only secured his hold on Normandy with victory at the Battle of Varaville in 1057. William also launched a campaign against other neighboring rulers to expand his territory. These included his attack on England in 1066, which culminated with him becoming king of England. William and England before the Conquest of 1066 were not William's first foray into British politics. William was associated with King Edward the Confessor of England (reigning 1042–1066). Edward's mother, Emma, was William's great-aunt, and Edward had lived in exile in Normandy after the death of his father, King Æthelred the Unready (reigning 978–1016). William probably visited England at least once before 1066, in 1051. This visit was recorded in just one source, a single version of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: Count William came from abroad ... and the king [Edward the Confessor] accepted him and as many of his friends as he could, and let him go again. Nothing else is known about this visit. It is possible that at some stage Edward declared William to be his heir, as claimed by the later Norman writers. But there is no mention of this agreement in other contemporary sources. In addition to visiting England, William entertained English nobles at his palace in Normandy. The English nobleman Harold Godwinson, who became king of England in 1066, may even have accompanied William on some of his campaigns in northern France. The Norman conquest of England Edward the Confessor died in January 1066, and Harold succeeded him as king of England. Soon after, William began preparing for the invasion. Later the author of Norman claimed that both Edward and Harold had promised William that he would be the next king of England, but it was unclear if this was to justify William's conquest after the event. William's troops crossed the English Channel on the night of 27–28 September 1066, just as King Harold to the north to fight an offensive force led by King Harald Hardrada of Norway (ruled 1046–1066) and Harold Godwinson's own brother, Tostig. After defeating and killing Harald Hardrada and Tostig, the British marched south to Hastings, close by where they were defeated by the Norman army on 14 October. William then progressed through South East England. He was crowned king of England at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, 1066. England and Normandy after William's Conquest initially followed the pattern of coins and royal rule established by previous English kings, and he even issued writings in Old English. In the late 1060s, a number of English nobles rebelled against normal rule in England, among them the earls of Eadwine and Morcar. William responded by destroying a large area in the north of the country. In 1070, he also removed a number of English bishops from office and replaced them with Normans or allies. At Christmas 1085, King William ordered a survey to record who owned land and other assets in England. This administrative survey eventually produced the Domesday Book. Although William was king of England, he spent most of his time from 1072 onwards in Normandy. He also continued to conduct military campaigns in what is now France. When he attacked Mantes, 52 km (32 miles) outside Paris, he became ill, and he died on September 9, 1087. William the Conqueror was succeeded king of England by his second son, William Rufus (1087–1100), and as Duke of Normandy by his eldest son, Robert Curthose (died 1134). A third son, Henry, became king of England (as Henry I) in 1100. For other uses, see William the Conqueror (disambiguation). William I redirects here. For other uses, see William I (disambiguation).
Dont get confused with William Longsword, King of England, Duke of Normandy King of England William the ConquerorWilliam as depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry during the Battle of Hastings, lifting his helm to show that he is still aliveKing of EnglandReign25 December 1066 – 9 September 1087Coronation25 December 1066PredecessorEdgar the Ætheling (uncrowned)Harold Godwinson (crowned)SuccessorWilliam I(Duke of Normandy)Reign3 July 1035 – 9 September 1087PredecessorRobert the MagnificentSuccessorRobert CurthoseBornabout 1028[1]Faiisaise, Duchy of NormandyBurialSaint-Étienne de Caen, NormandySpouseMatilda of Flanders(m. 1051/2, died 1083)IssueDetail Robert II, Duke of Normandy Richard Adelize Cecilia William II, King of England Constance, Duchess of Brittany Adela, Countess of Blois Henry I, King of England HouseNormandyFatherRobert the MagnificentMotherHerleva of Falaise William I[a] (c. 1028[1] – 9 September 1087), commonly known as William the Conqueror and sometimes William the Bastard,[2][b] was the first Norman King of England, reigning from 1066 until his death in 1087. He was descended from Rollo and duke of Normandy from 1035 onwards. His detention was safe in Normandy in 1060, following a struggle to establish his throne, and he launched the conquest of Normans in England six years later. The rest of his life is characterized by a struggle to consolidate over England and its continental lands, and by difficulty with his eldest son, Robert Curthose. William was the son of the unmarried Robert I, Duke of Normandy, by his affair Herleva. His illegitimate status and youth caused some difficulties for him after he succeeded his father, as did the anarchy that plagued the first years of his reign. During his childhood and adolescence, members of the Norman aristocracy fought each other, both for control of the duke's child, and for their own purposes. In 1047, William was able to quash the rebellion and begin establishing his authority over the duchy, a process that was not completed until about 1060. His marriage in the 1050s to Matilda of Flanders gave him a strong ally in the neighboring region of Flanders. At the time of his marriage, William was able to arrange the appointment of his supporters as bishop and abbot in the Norman church. The consolidation of his power allowed him to expand his horizons, and he secured control of neighboring Maine in 1062. In the 1050s and early 1060s, William became a contender for the British throne held by the childless Edward the Confessor, his first cousin once removed. There are other potential claimants, including the powerful English earl Harold Godwinson, who Edward named as king at the site of his death in January 1066. Arguing that Edward had previously promised him the throne and that Harold had vowed to support his claim, William built a large fleet and invaded England in September 1066. He decisively defeated and killed Harold at the Battle of Hastings on 14 October 1066. After further military efforts, William was crowned king on Christmas Day, 1066, in London. He made arrangements for the British government in early 1067 before returning to Normandy. Several rebellions failed to follow, but William's grip was largely secured in England in 1075, allowing him to spend most of his reign in continental Europe. William's final years were marked by difficulties in his continental domain, problems with his son, Robert, and the Threatened invasion of England by danes. In 1086, he ordered the compilation of the Domesday Book, a survey listing all land ownership in England along with pre-Conquest and current holders. He died in September 1087 while leading a campaign in northern France, and was buried in Caen. His reign in England was marked by the construction of a castle, the completion of the new Norman nobility on the land, and a change in the composition of The English clergy. He did not try to integrate the various domains into one kingdom but continued to manage each section separately. His land was divided after his death: Normandy went to Robert, and England went to his second living son, William Rufus. Norsemen background first started in what became Normandy at the end of the 8th century. The Permanent Scandinavian Settlement occurred before 911, when Rollo, one of the Viking leaders, and King Charles were Simple
Simple France reached an agreement that ceded rouen territory to Rollo. The land around Rouen became the core of the later duchy of Normandy. [3] Normandy may have been used as a base when scandinavian attacks on England were renewed in the late 10th century, which would have worsened relations between England and Normandy. [4] In an attempt to make things right, King Æthelred the Unready took Emma, Richard II's sister, duke of Normandy, as his second wife in 1002. [5] The Danish invasion of England continued, and Æthelred sought help from Richard, taking refuge in Normandy in 1013 when King Swein I of Denmark escorted Æthelred and her family from England. Swein's death in 1014 allowed Æthelred to return home, but Swein Cnut's son fought for Æthelred's return. Æthelred died unexpectedly in 1016, and Cnut became king of England. Æthelred and Emma's two sons, Edward and Ælfred, went into exile in Normandy while their mother, Emma, became Cnut's second wife. [6] After Cnut's death in 1035, the British throne fell to Harold Harefoot, his son by his first wife, while Harthacnut, his son by Emma, became king in Denmark. Britain remains unstable. Alfred returned to England in 1036 to visit his mother and perhaps to challenge Harold as king. One story implicates earl Godwín of Wessex in Alfred's subsequent death, but another blames Harold. Emma went into exile in Flanders until Harthacnut became king after Harold's death in 1040, and her half-brother Edward followed Harthacnut to England; Edward was declared king after Harthacnut's death in June 1042. [7] [c] The early life of the Château de Falaise in Falaise, Lower Normandy, France: William was born in a building earlier here. William was born in 1027 or 1028 in Falaise, Duchy of Normandy, most likely towards the end of 1028. [1] [8] [d] He was the only son of Robert I, son of Edward I. [e] Herleva's mother was the daughter of Fulbert of Falaise. He's probably a tanner or an embalmer. [9] She may have been a member of the ducal household, but did not marry Robert. [2] He later married Herlûin de Conteville, with whom he had two sons - Odo of Bayeux and Robert, Count of Mortain - and a daughter whose name is unknown. [f] One of Herleva's brothers, Walter, became William's supporter and protector during his minority. [9] Robert also had a daughter, Adelaide, by another mistress. [12] Robert I succeeded his older brother Richard III as Duke on 6 August 1027. [1] The brothers had clashed over succession, and Richard's sudden death. Robert is accused by murdering Richard, a charge that makes sense but cannot now be tested. [13] Conditions in Normandy were not calm, as the noble family damaged the Church and Alan II of waging war against the duchy, perhaps in an attempt to take control. By 1031 Robert had garnered considerable support from the nobles, many of them going to be prominent during William's life. They included the Duke Robert's uncle, the archbishop of Rouen, who initially opposed the duke; dukes; Gunnor's nephew's wife Richard I; and Gilbert of Brienne, grandson of Richard I.[14] After his accession, Robert continued Norman's support for the English princes Edward and Alfred, who were still exiled in northern France. [2] There are indications that Robert may have been briefly engaged to a daughter of King Cnut, but no marriage took place. It is unclear whether William would have been implanted in a row if Robert had a legitimate son. The Duke had previously been illegitimate, and William's relationship with his father in the ducal charter seemed to indicate that William was considered Robert's most likely heir. [2] In 1034 the Duke decided to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. 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The period from 1047 to 1054 saw an almost continuous war, with fewer crises continuing until 1060. [30] William's next consolidation of power was against the Guy of Burgundy, who retreated to his castle in Brienne, which William besieged. After a long attempt, the Duke succeeded in expelling Guy in 1050. [31] To overcome the growing power of the Count of Anjou, Geoffrey Martel,[32] William joined King Henry in the campaign against him, the last known cooperation between the two. They managed to capture the fortress of Angevin, but achieved little else. [33] Geoffrey sought to expand his authority to the territory of Maine, especially after the death of Hugh IV of Maine in 1051. Maine's center of control is ownership of the Bellême family, which holds Bellême on the border of Maine and Normandy, as well as strongholds in Alençon and Domfront. Overlord Bellême was king of France, but Domfront was under the leadership of Geoffrey Martel and Duke William was the leader of Alençon. The Bellême family, whose land is quite strategically placed among three different overlords, are able to play each other against the other and secure virtual independence for themselves. [32] Images from the Bayeux Tapestry show William with his half-brother. William is in the middle, Odo is on the left with his bare hands, and Robert is on the right with a sword in his hand. In the death of Hugh of Maine, Geoffrey Martel occupied Maine in a move contested by William and King eventually, they managed to expel Geoffrey from the district, and in the process, William was able to secure the Bellême family strongholds of Alençon and Domfront for himself. He is so to assert his leadership of the Bellême family and force them to act consistently in Norman's interest. [34] But in 1052 the king and Geoffrey Martel made common cause against William at the same time that several Norman nobles began to contest William's increasing power. Henry's face may have been motivated by a desire to maintain dominance over Normandy, which is now threatened by William's growing mastery of his duchy. [35] William engaged in military action against his own nobles throughout 1053,[36] as well as with the new Archbishop of Rouen, Mauger. [37] In February 1054 the Norman king and rebels launched a double duchy invasion. Henry led the main push through the territory of Evreux, while the other wing, under king Odo's brother, invaded eastern Normandy.[38] William met the invaders by dividing his troops into two groups. The first, which he led, confronted Henry, the second, which included some who were staunch supporters of William, such as Robert, count of eu, Walter Giffard, Roger of Mortemer, and William de Warenne, faced the power of other invaders. This second army defeated the invaders at the Battle of the Mortemer. In addition to ending both invasions, the battle allowed the Duke's churchwim supporters to exile Archbishop Mauger. 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The period from 1047 to 1054 saw an almost continuous war, with fewer crises continuing until 1060. [30] William's next consolidation of power was against the Guy of Burgundy, who retreated to his castle in Brienne, which William besieged. After a long attempt, the Duke succeeded in expelling Guy in 1050. [31] To overcome the growing power of the Count of Anjou, Geoffrey Martel,[32] William joined King Henry in the campaign against him, the last known cooperation between the two. They managed to capture the fortress of Angevin, but achieved little else. [33] Geoffrey sought to expand his authority to the territory of Maine, especially after the death of Hugh IV of Maine in 1051. Maine's center of control is ownership of the Bellême family, which holds Bellême on the border of Maine and Normandy, as well as strongholds in Alençon and Domfront. Overlord Bellême was king of France, but Domfront was under the leadership of Geoffrey Martel and Duke William was the leader of Alençon. The Bellême family, whose land is quite strategically placed among three different overlords, are able to play each other against the other and secure virtual independence for themselves. [32] Images from the Bayeux Tapestry show William with his half-brother. William is in the middle, Odo is on the left with his bare hands, and Robert is on the right with a sword in his hand. In the death of Hugh of Maine, Geoffrey Martel occupied Maine in a move contested by William and King eventually, they managed to expel Geoffrey from the district, and in the process, William was able to secure the Bellême family strongholds of Alençon and Domfront for himself. He is so to assert his leadership of the Bellême family and force them to act consistently in Norman's interest. [34] But in 1052 the king and Geoffrey Martel made common cause against William at the same time that several Norman nobles began to contest William's increasing power. 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The union was governed in 1049, but Pope Leo IX banned marriage at the Rheims Council in October 1049. [j] The marriage continued some time in the early 1050s.[43][j] perhaps not sanctioned by the Pope. According to late sources generally not considered reliable, papal sanctions were not secured until 1059, but since papal-Norman relations in the 1050s were generally good, and Norman clergy were able to visit Rome in 1050 without incident, it was probably secured earlier. [45] Papal sanctions on the marriage appeared to require the establishment of two monasteries in Caen- by William and one by Matilda. [46] [k] The marriage was important in strengthening William's status, as Flanders was one of France's more powerful territories, with links to the French royal house and Emperor of Germany. [45] Contemporary writers consider the marriage, which resulted in four sons and five or six daughters, to be a success. 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[13] Conditions in Normandy were not calm, as the noble family damaged the Church and Alan II of waging war against the duchy, perhaps in an attempt to take control. By 1031 Robert had garnered considerable support from the nobles, many of them going to be prominent during William's life. They included the Duke Robert's uncle, the archbishop of Rouen, who initially opposed the duke; dukes; Gunnor's nephew's wife Richard I; and Gilbert of Brienne, grandson of Richard I.[14] After his accession, Robert continued Norman's support for the English princes Edward and Alfred, who were still exiled in northern France. [2] There are indications that Robert may have been briefly engaged to a daughter of King Cnut, but no marriage took place. It is unclear whether William would have been implanted in a row if Robert had a legitimate son. The Duke had previously been illegitimate, and William's relationship with his father in the ducal charter seemed to indicate that William was considered Robert's most likely heir. [2] In 1034 the Duke decided to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Although some of his supporters tried to prevent him from travelling, he convened a council in January 1035 and asked the assembled Norman witches to swear allegiance to William as his heir[215] before leaving for Jerusalem. He died in early July in Nicea, on his way back to Normandy. [15] The Duke of Normandy Challenges diagram shows the William's family ties. The names with +- below them are William's opponents, and the names with +++ are William's supporters. Some relatives switch sides over time, and are marked with both symbols. William faced several challenges to become Duke, including his illegitimate birth and his youth; evidence showed that he was seven or eight years old at the time. 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Peveler in Nottingham and Henry de Beaumont in Warwick. Then the king returned to end of 1068. [97] In early 1069, Edgar the Ætheling rose up in rebellion and invaded York. Although William returned to York and built another Edgar remained free, and in the fall he joined King Sweyn. [p] The king of Denmark had brought a large fleet to England and attacked not only York but Exeter and Shrewsbury. York was captured by Edgar and Sweyn's combined forces. Edgar was declared king by his supporters. William responded quickly, ignoring the continental uprising in Maine, and symbolically wearing his crown in the ruins of York on Christmas Day 1069. He then proceeded to buy danes. He marched down the Tees River, ruining the countryside as he left. Edgar, having lost much of his support, fled to Scotland,[98] where King Malcolm III married Edgar's sister Margaret. [99] Waltheof, who had joined the rebellion, proposed, along with Gospatric, and both were allowed to defend their land. But William wasn't done yet; he marched over the Pennines over the winter and defeated the remaining rebels at Shrewsbury before building Chester and Stafford Castle. The campaign, which included the burning and destruction of parts of the countryside by royal forces, is commonly known as the Harrying of the North; it ended in April 1070, when William wore his crown ceremonially for the Passover at Winchester. [98] On Temporary Church Affairs in Winchester in 1070, William met three papal legates – John Minutus, Peter, and Ermenfrid of Zion – that had been sent by the pope. Legates ceremonially crowned William during the Easter trial. [100] Historian David Bates saw the coronation as a ceremonial papal seal of approval for William's conquest. [2] Legates and the king then proceeded to convene a series of church councils dedicated to reforming and reorganing the Church of England. Sigard and his brother, Æthelmar, Bishop of Elmham, were deposed from their diocese. Several original abbots were also deposed, both at the council held near Easter and at a further one near Whitsum. Whitsum Council saw the appointment of Lanfranc as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, and Thomas of Bayeux as the new Archbishop of York, to replace Ealdred, who died in September 1069. [100] William's half-brother, Odo, may be expected to be elevated to Canterbury, but William may not want to give that much power to family members. [q] Another reason for the appointment may be pressure from the papacy to appoint Lanfranc. [101] The Norman clergy were appointed to replace the deposed bishops and abbots, and at the end of the process, only two original English bishops remained in office, along with several continental prelates appointed by Edward the Confessor. [100] In 1070 William also founded Battle Abbey, a new monastery at the site of the Battle of Hastings, partly as penance for death in battle and partly a warning to the dead. [2] At a church council held in Lillebonne in 1080, he was confirmed in his primary authority over the Norman church. [102] Problems in England and the Danish attacks and rebellions of the continental Sweyn had promised to leave England, returning in the spring of 1070, attacking along the Humber and East Anglia towards the Isle of Ely, where he joined Hereward the Wake, a local hero. Hereward's troops attacked Peterborough Abbey, which they captured and looted. William was able to secure the departure of Sweyn and his fleet in the 1070s,[103] allowing him to return to the continent to deal with problems in Maine, where the city of Le Mans had rebelled in 1069. Another concern was the death of Count Baldwin VI of Flanders in July 1070, which caused a succession crisis when his widow, Richilde, ruled for their two young sons, Arnulf and Baldwin. The rules, however, were contested by Robert, Baldwin's brother. Richild proposed marriage to William fitzOsbern, who was in Normandy, and fitzOsbern was accepted. But after he was assassinated in February 1071 at the Battle of Cassel, Robert became a count. He opposed King William's power on the continent, so the Battle of Cassel disrupted the balance of power in northern France in addition to harming William's important supporters. [104] In 1071 William defeated the last rebellion in the north. Earl Edwin was betrayed by his own men and killed, while William built a road to subdue the Isle of Ely, where Hereward the Wake and Morcar were hiding. Here he escaped, but Morcar was captured, snatched from his ear, and imprisoned. In 1072 William invaded Scotland, defeating Malcolm, who had recently invaded the north of England. William and Malcolm agree to make peace by signing the Treaty of Abernethy, and Malcolm may hand over his son Duncan as a hostage for peace. Perhaps another provision of the treaty was the expulsion of Edgar the Ætheling from Malcolm's court. [105] William then turned his attention to the continent, returning to Normandy in early 1073 to deal with the invasion of Maine by Fulk le Rechin, Count of Anjou. With a quick campaign, William captured Le Mans from Fulk's forces, completing the campaign on March 30, 1073. This made William's power safer in northern France, but a new count of Flanders received Edgar the Ætheling to his court. Robert also married his half-brother Bertha to King Philip I of France, who opposed Norman rule. [106] William returned to England to relinquish his army from service in 1073 but quickly returned to Normandy, where he spent all of 1074. [107] He left England at the hands of his supporters, including Richard fitzGilbert and William de Warenne [108] as well as Lanfranc. [109] William's ability to leave England for a full year was a sign that he felt that his royal control was safe. [108] While William was in Normandy, Edgar the Ætheling returned to Scotland from Flanders. King of France, seeking focus for those who oppose power then proposed that Edgar be given montreuil-sur-mer castle in the Channel, which would give Edgar a strategic advantage against William. [110] Edgar was forced to submit to William William, after that, and he returned to William's court. [107] [r] Philip, despite being thwarted in this attempt, turned his attention to Brittany, leading to an uprising in 1075. [110] Rebellion of the Earis Main article: Rebellion of earls castle of Norwich. It continues to date after the Earls Rebellion, but the castle mound is early. [111] In 1075, during the absence of William, Ralph de Gael, Earl of Norfolk, and Roger de Breuteil, Earl of Hereford, conspired to overthrow William in the Revolt of the Earls. [109] Ralph was at least part of Breton and had spent most of his life before 1066 in Brittany, where he still owned land. [112] Roger was a Norman, son of William fitzOsbern, but had inherited less authority than his father. [113] Ralph's authority also seems to be less than that of his predecessors in earldom, and this was likely the cause of his involvement in the rebellion. [112] The exact reason for the rebellion was unclear, but it was launched at Ralph's wedding to Roger's relatives, held at Exning in Suffolk. Waltheof, earl of Northumbria, although one of William's favourites, was also involved, and there were some Breton rulers who were prepared to rebel in support of Ralph and Roger. Ralph also asked Denmark for help. William remained in Normandy while his men in England subdued the rebellion. Roger was unable to leave his castle in Herefordshire due to the efforts of wulfstan, bishop of Worcester, and Æthelwig, Abbot of Evesham. Ralph was bottled at Norwich Castle by the combined efforts of Odo of Bayeux, Geoffrey de Monbray, Richard fitzGilbert, and William de Warenne. Ralph eventually left Norwich under his wife's control and left England, eventually ending up in Brittany. Norwich were besieged and surrendered, with garisons allowed to go to Brittany. Meanwhile, the Danish king's brother, Cnut, eventually arrived in England with a fleet of 200 ships, but he was too late because Norwich had already surrendered. The Danes then storm along the beach before returning home. [109] William returned to England in 1075 to deal with the Danish threat, leaving his wife Matilda in charge of Normandy. He celebrated Christmas in Winchester and dealt with it after the uprising. [114] Roger and Waltheof were kept in prison, where Waltheof was executed in May 1076. Prior to this, William had returned to the continent, where Ralph had continued the rebellion of Brittany. [109] Problems at home and abroad earl Ralph had secured control of the castle at Dol, and in September 1076 William advanced to Brittany and besieged the castle. King Philip of France eased the siege and defeated William at the Battle of Dol, forcing him to retreat back to Normandy. Although this was William's first defeat in battle, it didn't change things much. Angevin's attacks in Maine were defeated in late 1076 or 1077, with Fulk le Rechin was wounded in a failed attack. More serious is the retirement of Simon de Crépy, Crépy, Prince Amiens, to the monastery. Before he became a monk, Simon ceded his territory at Vexin to King Philip. Vexin was a buffer state between Normandy and the land of the French king, and Simon had been a supporter of William. [s] William was able to make peace with Philip in 1077 and secure a truce with Count Fulk in late 1077 or early 1078. [115] In late 1077 or early 1078 problems began between William and his eldest son, Robert. Although Orderic Vitalis described it as starting with an altercation between Robert and his two younger brothers, William and Henry, including the story that the altercation began when William and Henry threw water at Robert, it is most likely that Robert felt helpless. Orderic recounted that he was previously demanded count of Maine and Normandy and had been rejected. Problems in 1077 or 1078 resulted in Robert leaving Normandy accompanied by a group of young men, many of them sons of William's supporters. Among them were Robert of Belleme, William de Breuteil, and Roger, son of Richard FitzGilbert. A group of young men went to the castle in Remaluar, where they continued their invasion of Normandy. The robbers were supported by many of William's continental enemies. [116] William immediately attacked the rebels and drove them out of Remaluar, but King Philip gave them a castle in Gerberoi, where they joined new supporters. William then besieged Gerberoi in January 1079. After three weeks, the besieged towers were rescued from the castle and managed to retrieve the iron in shock. William was not unloaded by Robert and was only saved from death by an Englishman, Toki wigod's son, who himself was killed. [117] William's forces were forced to lift the siege, and the king returned to Rouen. On 12 April 1080, William and Robert had reached the property, with William once again confirming that Robert would receive Normandy when he died. A map showing William's land in 1087 (a bright pink area controlled by William). News of William's defeat in Gerberoi raised difficulties in northern England. In August and September 1079 King Malcolm of Scotland invaded south of the River Tweed, destroying land between the River Tees and Tweed in an attack that lasted almost a month. Norman's lack of response seemed to have caused the people of Northumbria to grow calm, and in the spring of 1080 they rebelled against the government of William Walcher, Bishop of Durham and Earl of Northumbria. Walcher was killed on May 14, 1080, and the king sent his half-brother Odo to deal with the rebellion. [119] William left Normandy in July 1080.[120] and in the autumn his son Robert was sent on a campaign against Scotland. Robert stormed into Lothian and forced Malcolm to agree terms, building a castle in Newcastle-on-Tyne on his return to England. [119] The king was in for Christmas 1080 and in Winchester for Whitsum in 1081, ceremonally wore his crown on both the Papal embassy arrived in the UK during this period, requesting that William commit allegiance to the British to the papacy, a request he refused. [120] William also visited Wales during 1081, although English and Welsh sources differed on the exact purpose of the visit. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle stated that it was a military campaign, but Welsh sources noted it as a pilgrimage to St Davids in honour of Saint David. William's biographer David Bates argued that an earlier explanation was more likely, explaining that the balance of power had recently shifted in Wales and that William was hoping to take advantage of changing circumstances to prolong Norman rule. In late 1081, William returned to the continent, dealing with disturbances in Maine. Although he led an expedition to Maine, the result was instead a negotiated settlement orchestrated by the papal legislature. [121] The source's final years for William's actions between 1082 and 1084 were very small. According to historian David Bates, this may mean that little happened on the record, and that because William was on the continent, there was nothing to note by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. [122] In 1082 William ordered the arrest of his half-brother Odo. The exact reason is unclear, as no contemporary writer recorded what caused the altercation between the half-siblings. Orderic Vitalis then notes that Odo has aspirations to become Pope. Orderic is also concerned that Odo has attempted to persuade some of William's followers to join Odo during the invasion of southern Italy. This would be considered damaging to the king's authority over his subordinates, which William would not tolerate. Although Odo remained in captivity for the rest of William's reign, his land was not confiscated. More trouble struck in 1083, when William's son Robert rebelled once again with the support of the French king. The next blow was the death of Queen Matilda on November 2, 1083. William was always pictured close to his wife, and his death will add to the problem. Maine continued to be difficult, with an uprising by Hubert de Beaumont-aux-Maine, probably in 1084. Hubert was besieged at his castle in Sainte-Suzanne by William's troops for at least two years, but he eventually made peace with the king and was restored to support. William's movements during 1084 and 1085 were unclear - he was in Normandy at Easter 1084 but may have been in England before that to collect danelogs assessed that year for the British defence against invasion by King Cnut IV of Denmark. Although British and Norman forces remained on high alert throughout 1085 and into 1086, the threat of invasion ended by Cnut's death in July 1086. [124] William as king of Change in England See also: English Castle and Royal forest • Royal forest in England White Tower in London, started by As part of his efforts to secure England, William ordered many castles, preserves and mottes to be built - among them the central centre Tower of London, White Tower. These fortresses allowed the Normans to retreat to safety when threatened by rebellion and allowed garrisons to be protected as they occupied the countryside. The early castles were simple land and timber constructions, then replaced with stone structures. [126] In the beginning, most of the newly settled Normans kept the knights of the household and did not complete their retainers with their own fief, but gradually these knights of the household came to be given their own land, a process known as subfeudation. William also required his newly created wizards to contribute a fixed quota of knights to not only the military campaign but also the castle garrison. This method of organizing military forces is a departure from the pre-Conquest English practice of basing military service on territorial units such as hide. [127] By William's death, after weathering a series of rebellions, most of the original Anglo and aristocracy had been replaced by Norman and other continental figures. Not all Normans who accompanied William in the early conquests gained large amounts of land in England. Some seem reluctant to take land in a kingdom that doesn't always seem to be disingared. Although some of the newly wealthy Normans in England came from William's close family or from the upper Norman nobility, others came from relatively humble backgrounds. [128] William gave some land to his continental followers from the possession of one or more certain Britons; at other times, he gave a compact grouping of land previously held by many different English people to one Norman follower, often to allow for the consolidation of land around strategically placed castles. [129] The medieval chronicle of William of Malmesbury says that the king also seized and depopulated many miles of land (36 parishes), turning it into a new forest area of the kingdom to support his enthusiastic enjoyment of hunting. Modern historians have come to the conclusion that the depopulation of the New Forest is greatly exaggerated. Much of the New Forest land is poor agricultural land, and archaeological and geographical studies have shown that it is likely to rarely settle when converted into a royal forest. [130] William was known for his love of hunting, and he introduced forest laws to areas of the country, regulating who could hunt and what could be hunted. [131] Main administrative article: Norman conquest of England • Consequences of William the Conqueror's English coin After 1066, William made no attempt to integrate his separate domain into one unified world with a set of laws. His seal from after 1066, in which six impressions still remain, was made for him after he conquered England and emphasized his role as king, while separately as Duke. [q] While in Normandy, William admitted that he owed allegiance to the king of France, but in England no such confession was made – further evidence that Part of William's land is considered separate. The administrative machinery of Normandy, England, and Maine continues to exist separate from other lands, with each retaining its own form. For example, the British continued to use writing, which is unknown on the continent. Also, charters and documents produced for the government in Normandy differ in formula from those produced in the UK. [132] William took over a more complex British government than the Norman system. England is divided into shires or counties, which are then divided into hundreds or wapentak. Each shire was granted by a royal official called the sheriff, who roughly had the same status as viscount Norman. A sheriff is responsible for royal justice and collecting royal income. [54] To keep an eye on his expanded domain, William was forced to travel even more than he had as Duke. He crossed back and forth between the continent and England at least 19 times between 1067 and his death. William spent most of his time in England between the Battle of Hastings and 1072, and after that, he spent most of his time in Normandy. [133] [q] The government is still centered on William's household, when he is in one part of his domain, decisions will be made for other parts of his domain and transmitted through a communication system that uses letters and other documents. William also appointed a deputy who could make a decision while he was absent, especially if the absence was long. Usually, these are members of William's close family - often his half-brother Odo or his wife Matilda. Sometimes deputies are allowed to handle certain issues. [134] William continued to collect danelog, the land tax. This was an advantage for William, as it was the onl universal tax collected by the rulers of western Europe during this period. It is an annual tax based on the value of landholdings, and can be collected at different rates. Most of the year sees a rate of two shillings per hide, but in a crisis, it could be increased to as much as six shillings per hide. [135] Coins between different parts of the domain continue to be minted in different cycles and styles. British coins generally have a high silver content, and are required to be reprinted every three years. Norman coins have a much lower silver content, are often of poor quality, and are rarely reprinted. Also, in the UK, no other coins are allowed, while on other continents coins are considered legal tenders. There is also no evidence that most British money is circulating in Normandy, which suggests little attempt to integrate the monetary systems of the UK and Normandy. [132] In addition to taxation, William's extensive landholding throughout the UK strengthened As heir to King Edward, he controlled all former royal lands. He was also in control of most of Harold's land and his family, which king of the largest secular landowners in England by a wide margin. [v] Domesday Book main article: Domesday Book A page from the Domesday Book for Warwickshire At Christmas 1085, William ordered a compilation of surveys on landholding held by himself and by his followers throughout his kingdom, organised by the county. This resulted in a work now known as the Domesday Book. The list for each district gives ownership of each landowner, grouped by the owner. The list describes the holding, which owned the land before the Conquest, its value, what the tax assessment was, and usually the number of farmers, plows, and other resources that the holding had. Cities are listed separately. All English counties south of the River Tees and River Ribble were included, and the entire work seemed to have largely been completed by August 1, 1086, when the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle noted that William received the results and that all the witch's chiefs swore swearing, renewal of their oaths of allegiance. [137] William's precise motivation in ordering the survey is unclear, but may have several objectives, such as making records of feudal obligations and justifying increased taxation. [2] William's death and consequently left England towards the end of 1086. Upon his return to the continent he married his daughter Constance to Duke Alan of Brittany, in advancing his policy of seeking allies against the Kings of France. William's son Robert, who was still working with the King of France, seemed to have been active in raising the issue, enough that William led an expedition against the French Vexin in July 1087. While capturing Mantes, William fell ill or was wounded by his saddle pommel. [138] He was taken to the priory of Saint Geaires in Rouen, where he died on 9 September 1087. [2] William's actual death was not as dramatic as the legend of his death. Orderic Vitalis claims that Edward's succession was caused by Duke William's efforts, this is highly unlikely, perhaps, William at the time was practically powerless in his own duchy. [2] The exact date of William's birth is confused by contradictory statements. Orderic Vitalis had William at the site of his death claiming that he was 64 years old, which would put his birth around 1023. But elsewhere, Orderic states that William was 9 years old when his father left for Jerusalem in 1025, putting the year of birth in 1027. William of Malmesbury claims that William was 7 years old when his father left, giving 1028. Another source, De obitu Willelmi, stated that William was 59 years old when he died in 1087, allowing for 1027 or 1028. [9] This made Emma of Normandy her great-aunt and Edward the Confessor her cousin. [11] The princess later married William, ruler of La Ferté-Macé. [9] Walter has two daughters. One became a nun, and the other, Matilda, married Ralph Tlesser. [9] How illegitimately viewed by the church and the lay community changed during this period. The Church, under the influence of Gregorian reform, held the view that the sin of sex outside of marriage tarnished any resulting offspring, but the nobility did not fully embrace the Church's point of view during William's lifetime. [18] In 1135 the illegitimate birth of Robert of Gloucester, son of William Henry I of England, was enough to preclude Robert's succession as king when Henry died without a legitimate male heir, although he had some support from the English nobility. [19] The reason for the lack of his name is unclear. There is no record of grounds from the Council, and the main evidence is from the Order of Vitalis. He hinted obliquely that William and Matilda were too closely related, but gave no details, hence the issue remains unclear. [42] The exact date of the marriage is unknown, but it may be in 1051 or 1052, and certainly before the end of 1053, as Matilda was crowned William's wife in a charter dated at the end of that year. [44] The two monasteries are Abbaye-aux-Hommes (or St Étienne) for men founded by William around 1059, and Abbaye aux Dames (or Sainte Trinité) for women founded by Matilda about four years later. [47] Ætheling means prince of the royal house and usually indicates a son or brother of the reigning king. [70] Edgar the Ætheling was another claimant,[74] but Edgar was young.[75] possibly only 14 in 1066. [76] Bayeux's tapestry can depict papal banners carried by William's troops, but this is not mentioned in the tapestry. [79] ÷ William of Malmesbury stated that William did accept Gytha's offer, but William of Poitiers stated that William rejected the offer. [89] Modern biographer Harold that William turned down the offer. [91] Medieval chronicles are often called 11th-century events only in season, making more precise dates impossible. ÷ Historian Frank Barlow points out that William had suffered from his uncle Mauger's ambitions as a young man and thus would have been counting creates such a situation. [101] ÷ Edgar remained at William's palace until 1086 when he went to principal Norman in southern Italy. [107] ÷ Although Simon was a supporter of William, Vexin was actually under the leadership of King Philip, which means he persisted into modern times. The conquest brought the kingdom into closer contact with France and established links between France and England that lasted throughout the Middle Ages. Another consequence of William's invasion of England and Scandinavia was the sundering of a previously close relationship between England and Scandinavia. William's reign in Normandy as a fight for about 40 months in England. [133] ÷ In the Domesday Book, the king's land is worth four times that of his half-brother Odo's land, the next largest landowner, and seven times more than Roger of Montgomery, the third largest landowner. [136] ÷ The femur currently in the tomb is assumed to be a bone buried in 1642, but historian Victoria E. A. Freeman holds that it was lost in 1793. [141] ÷ William of Poitiers recounts that two brothers, the Iberian kings, were contenders for the hand of William's daughter, which caused discord between them. [151] Some historians have identified this as Sancho II of Castile and his brother Garcia II of Galicia, and the bride as Sancho's documented wife Alberta, which bears the non-Iberian name. [152] Simon de Crépy's anonymous Vita instead made competitors Alfonso VI of León and Robert Guiscard, while William of Malmesbury and Orderic Vitalis both showed a daughter William had been engaged to Alfonso the king of Galicia but had died before the wedding. In her Historia Ecclesiastica, Orderic specifically names her as Agatha, Harold's former fiancée. [152] This contradicts Orderic's previous additions to the Gesta Normannorum Ducum, in which he instead referred to Harold's fiancée as William's daughter, Adelidis. [150] Recent stories of Alfonso VI's complex marital history have accepted that he was engaged to William's daughter Agatha.[151][152][153] while Douglas dismissed Agatha as a confused reference to the daughter known as Adeliza. [48] Elisabeth van Houts was not committed, open to the possibility that Adeliza was engaged before becoming a nun, but also accepted that Agatha may have been William's different daughter. [150] Except ÷ a b c d Bates William the Conqueror p. 33 ÷ a b c d e f g h i j k l m n p q r s t u v x Bates William I Oxford Dictionary of National Biography ÷ Collins Early Medieval Europe pp. 376–377 ÷ Williams Æthelred the Unready pp. 42–43 ÷ Williams Æthelred the Unready pp. 54–55 ÷ Huscroft Norman Conquest pp. 80–83 ÷ Huscroft Norman Conquest pp. 83–85 ÷ William the Conqueror of History ÷ a b c d e Douglas William the Conqueror pp. 379–382 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror p. 417 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror p. 420 ÷ van Houts Les femmes Tabularia Études pp. 19–34 ÷ a b c Douglas William the Conqueror pp. 31–32 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror pp. 32–34, 145 ÷ a b Douglas William the Conqueror pp. 35–37 ÷ Bates William the Conqueror pp. 36 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror p. 37 ÷ Crouch the Nativity pp. 132–133 ÷ Given-Wilson and Curtis Royal Bastards p. 42 ÷ a b Douglas William the Conqueror pp. 38–39 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror p. 51 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror p. 40 ÷ 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99–100 ÷ Huscroft Norman Conquest p. 126 ÷ Carpenter's Struggle for p. 73 ÷ Huscroft Norman Conquest pp. 127–128 ÷ Huscroft Norman Conquest p. 129 ÷ Williams Godwine, earl of Wessex Oxford Dictionary of National Biography ÷ Walker Harold p. 181 ÷ Rex Harold II p. 254 ÷ Huscroft Norman Conquest p. 131 ÷ a b Huscroft Norman Conquest pp. 131–133 ÷ a b c Huscroft Norman Conquest pp. 138–139 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror p. 423 ÷ a b Carpenter's Struggle for Mastery pp. 75–76 ÷ a b c Huscroft b Carpenter Struggle for Mastery pp. 76–77 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror p. 225 ÷ a b c Bates William the Conqueror pp. 106–107 ÷ a b Barlow English Church 1066–1154, p. 59 ÷ Turner, French History Study, p.521. ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror pp. 221–222 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror pp. 223–225 ÷ Bates William the Conqueror pp. 107–109 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror p. 228–229 ÷ a b c Bates William the Conqueror p. 111 ÷ a b Bates William the Conqueror p. 112 ÷ a b c d Douglas William the 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÷ Bates William the Conqueror pp. 151–152 ÷ Bates William the Conqueror p. 150 ÷ Bates William the Conqueror pp. 198–202 ÷ a b c Bates William the Conqueror pp. 202–205 ÷ Bates William the Conqueror pp. 207–208 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror pp. 362–363 ÷ Douglas William the Conqueror p. 363 footnote 4 ÷ Bates William the Conqueror pp. 208–209 ÷ Bates William the Conqueror of P.P. 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London William the Conqueror House of NormandyBorn: 1028 Died: 9 September 1087 Regnal Title Preceded by Ætheling King of England 1066–1087 Replaced by William Rufus Preceded by The Extraordinary Duke of Normandy 1035–1035–1087 Replaced by Robert Curthose Portal:PortalsAccess relatedMiddle Ages portalEngland portalFrance Portalroyalty portalWar portalBiography Portalfind out more onWikipedia'sSister ProjectMediador CommonsQuotationsfrom WikiquoteSource textfrom WikisourceListen to this page on Oral Wikipedia Taken from

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