

HENRY II, COUNT OF EU--PART 4

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Generation No. 5

16. Count of Eu Robert, died 1090. He was the son of 32. William I, Count of Eu and 33. Lesceline d'Harcourt. He married 17. Beatrix.

17. Beatrix.

Notes for Count of Eu Robert:

ROBERT COUNT OF EU, the son and heir of Count William I. by Lesceline d'Harcourt, was expelled with his mother and brothers from the Castle of Eu during Guy of Burgundy's rebellion, but the promotion of his brother Hugh in 1050 to the bishopric of Lisieux proves that William of Normandy cherished no feelings of resentment against the family. Count Robert and his wife Beatrice gave a wood in his domains to the Monks of the Holy Trinity of the Mount at Rouen, and the grant was allowed by William of Normandy at the time when his quarrel began with the King of France, tempore quo discordia cepit inter ipsum et Henricum regem Francorum. The war arose out of the assistance, which the French King gave to the Count of Arques, and afterwards to William Busac in their attempts to dethrone the young Count William, but Robert of Eu was steadfast in his loyalty to his sovereign, and was so completely free from suspicion of sharing his brother's treason, that he was one of the generals in command of the Norman army, which defeated the rebels and their French allies at the Battle of Mortemer in 1054.

Count Robert with the consent of his wife Beatrice and of their sons Ralph, William and Robert founded and endowed in 1059 St. Michael's Abbey at Treport (Uterior portus), which is half a league distant from the Castle of Eu at the

mouth of the river Bresle. The Count of Eu witnessed the charter, by which his neighbour Roger de Busli or Builli, the Seigneur of Builli in the Bailiwick of Drincourt, sold to the Abbot of the Holy Trinity at Rouen in 1065 the tithes of his fief for 60lbs of silver pennies and a war-horse. This sale probably took place in 1065, and was made for the purpose of raising funds to equip him for the expedition to England. The Count of Eu witnessed this charter, little suspecting that in generations yet unborn his own descendants the Counts of Eu would inherit Roger de Busli's patrimony in Normandy and acquisitions in England.

The Count contributed 60 ships to the fleet for the invasion of England in 1066, and is named by Wace amongst those who fought gallantly at the battle of Senlac.

He was one of the Conqueror's most trusted generals, and on the King's return from his first Northern Campaign in 1069 the Counts of Eu and Mortain were left in Lindsey with an army to watch the Danes, who had sailed up the Humber, but had dispersed on the King's approach, and had taken shelter in the Lincolnshire fens. The invaders were welcomed by the inhabitants as kinsmen, for the

Danish element was strong in the fenlands, but the King's lieutenants surprised them whilst they were carousing at a festival, and chased them to their ships with great slaughter.

The high rank and important services of the Count of Eu insured him a large share in the distribution of estates forfeited by Englishmen, and provision was made for the Count out of lands which had belonged to King Harold's father and brother. The South Coast, which commanded the approach to Normandy, was a charge reserved for a few great Barons, whom the King could thoroughly trust. The King's half-brother the Bishop of Bayeux had the custody of Dover Castle and of the whole County of Kent, except Hugh de Montfort's Castelry at Romney. The six Rapes of Sussex had only five owners, for Chichester and Arundel were assigned to Roger de Montgomery, Bramber to William de Braose, Pevensey to the Count of Mortain, and Hastings to the Count of Eu. Every Rape had its own castle, river, port and forest, and Hastings is still one of the Cinque Ports, although the ancient harbour has long been silted up. Hastings Castle was the first, which the Normans built on English soil, for according to the Bayeux tapestry it was commenced before the battle of Senlac. The duty of constructing and defending this fortress was entrusted in the first place to Humphrey de Tilleul the brother-in-law of Hugh de Grandmesnil the Viceroy of Hampshire, but Humphrey was one of those home-sick Normans, who was induced by his wife to desert his post in 1068, and when he left England the Castle, and perhaps also the Rape of Hastings, was granted to the Count of Eu. The Count however was by no means constantly resident in England, for when King William remained five years in Normandy, from June 1075 to July 1080, the Count's

appearance at court from time to time suggests that he also was absent from England during the whole period. He witnessed in April 1077 the royal charter in favour of St. Stephen's Caen, and was chief mourner at Lisieux on 25 July in this year at the funeral of his brother Bishop Hugh. The Count also is mentioned amongst the grandees, who were present at Rouen at Easter 1080, when the monks of the Holy Trinity of the Mount obtained from the King a solemn confirmation of their right to an island in the Seine, which was given to them by their founder 50 years before.

The Domesday Barony of the Count of Eu was valued at £294 9s. His chief possession was the Rape and Castle of Hastings, which once belonged to Earl Godwin. It comprised 157,000 acres, and was valued at £251 9s. per annum. The Count had also the manor of Buckworth in Huntingdonshire worth £13 p. a., and formerly belonged to Earl Tostig; and also the manor of Thurrock in Essex, which formed part of King Harold's domains, and had seven houses in London attached to it. The Count converted these houses into a residence for himself in London, which improved their value from £12 to £30 per annum. He was also mesne-lord under the See of Canterbury of the manors of Ulcombe and Stowting in Kent, which had increased in value under his stewardship from £8 p. a. each to £10 and £11 respectively.

The Count of Eu was one of those Norman nobles, who on the death of William the Conqueror applied to the King of England for protection against the anarchy which prevailed in Normandy, and were supplied with money and troops, which enabled them to fortify their castles in defiance of their lawful sovereign. The Count was an useful ally to William Rufus on both sides of the Channel, for his castle at Hastings commanded one of the chief ports of communication with France. It was so important to the King that this fortress should be in friendly hands, that the Bishop of Durham reckoned it amongst his greatest services to his master that had kept the owner from joining the rebels. The Count died during this unsettled period, for although the day of his decease is not known all the authorities are agreed that he died in 1090. Count Robert had issue by his wife Beatrix, who is often confounded with her son William's wife Beatrix de Busli, three sons.

Children of Count Robert and Beatrix are:

i. Ralph of Eu.

Notes for Ralph of Eu:

Witnessed with his brothers his father and mother's foundation of Treport Abbey in 1059, and died unmarried before his father.

ii. Robert of Eu.

Notes for Robert of Eu:
Witness with his brothers 1059.

8 iii. William II, Count of Eu, died Bef. 1100; married Beatrix de Busli.

18. Roger de Busli (Source: Eu.).

Notes for Roger de Busli:
of Domesday

Children of Roger de Busli are:

- 9 i. Beatrix de Busli, married William II, Count of Eu.
- ii. Roger de Busli (Source: Eu.).

24. Roger d'Aubigny, born Abt. 1045; died Abt. 1084. He was the son of 48.
William d'Aubigny and 49. ... de Plessis. He married 25. Amicia de Mowbray.
25. Amicia de Mowbray, born Abt. 1055.

Notes for Amicia de Mowbray:

Sister of Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances, according to Orderic Vital, "one of the bishops with attendant clerks and monks, whose duty it was to aid the war with their prayers and councils." Amicia also had another brother, Roger de Montbray (Mowbray).

Children of Roger and Amicia are:

- 12 i. William d'Aubigny, born Abt. 1070 in Aubigny, FRA; died Abt. 1139; married Matilda Bigod Abt. 1101 in NOR, ENG.
- ii. Richard d'Aubigny.

Notes for Richard d'Aubigny:
Abbot of St. Albans

iii. Nigel d'Aubigny, died 1188; married Gundreda de Gournay.

Notes for Nigel d'Aubigny:

Became one of the greatest landowners in England and is the only member of the family recorded in Domesday, having received grants of several lordships in Buckingham, Leicester, Bedford, and Warwick, as he succeeded to the estates of his father and grandfather. He is reputed to have possessed 120 manors in Normandy and as many in England, including the great domain of the Earl of Mowbray, which came to him through his wife, confiscated from his cousin, Robert de Mowbray, Earl of Northumberland, given by Henry I., on the condition

that their eldest son would take the name of Mowbray. His son took the name of Mowbray on inheriting the estates of the family. He lived to a very great age, and died in 1138.

iv. Humphrey d'Aubigny.

v. Ralph d'Aubigny.

26. Roger Bigod (Source: Ä, 246D-26.), born in St Saveur, Normandy, FRA; died 15-Sep-1107 in Earsham, NFK, ENG. He was the son of 52. Roger/Robert Bigod and 53. Saint Saveur. He married 27. Adelisa de Toeni.

27. Adelisa de Toeni (Source: Prosopon, 9.), died Aft. 1136. She was the daughter of 54. Robert de Tosny and 55. Adelais.

Notes for Roger Bigod:

Possessed six lordships in Essex and 117 in Suffolk beside many manors in Norfolk. In 1103 he founded the Abbey of Whetford in Norfolk and was buried there four years later.

Roger Bigod was present at Senlac and received large grants for his services at the Conquest, comprising one hundred and twenty three (123) manors in Essex and Suffolk, only six being in the latter county, besides divers manors in Norfolk. Roger adhering to the party that took up arms against William Rufus, in the first year of that monarch's reign, fortified the castle at Norwich, and wasted the country around. At the accession of King Henry I. being a witness of the king's laws, and staunch in his interests, he obtained Framlingham in Suffolk, as a gift from the crown. He must have been a young man at that time, as he did not die until 1107, when he was buried in the Abbey of Whetford in Norfolk, which he had founded in 1103. Roger married Adeliza Grantemesnil, daughter and co-heir of Hugh de Grantemesnil, High Steward of England.

Geoffrey H. White, who contributed the greater part of the essay on "Norfolk" in The Complete Peerage, ix, says, p. 578, n. c: ". . . Roger [Bigod] left two sons, William and Hugh (see post) and three daughters: (i) Gunnor, who m. Robert de Essex, otherwise Robert FitzSuein, Lord of Rayleigh, with whom she joined in gifts to Thetford (Dugdale, Mon., vol. v, pp. 142, 151); cf. charter of Hugh Bigod to the priory of Norwich, granting to it Godwin de Smalbergh and his lands, for his father's anniversary, in exchange for Elstan de Buc, whom Gunnor his sister had given to it ('penes Dean and Chapter of Norwich_vis. per me P.L., Norroy' [Peter Le Neve]. MS. at Norfolk House). (ii) Maud, m. William d'Aubigny, Master Butler of the Royal Household (see Mowbray). (iii) Cecily 'de

Belvoir,' m. William d'Aubigny the Breton, who had obtained part of the fee of Belvoir before Cecily's mother was given possession of it; this marriage, therefore, may have been arranged to settle rival claims. Cecily eventually inherited Belvoir from her mother (Hist. MSS. Com., Rutland MSS., vol. iv. pp. 106-7, 144, 161). . . . Of the sons, William was certainly born of the 1st marriage (see post), and Hugh presumably of the 2nd, as Cecily obviously was. The fact that neither of her sisters shared in the Belvoir inheritance would suggest *prima facie* that she was the only child of this marriage; but Maud d'Aubigny also seems to have been a daughter of the 2nd wife, for her mother was present at her funeral (Dugdale, *op. cit.*, vol. iii, pp. 330-1). This view may be supported by the fact that her marriage did not take place until after her father's death, for the King gave her on her marriage 10 knights' fees from the land of Roger Bigot (Red Book of the Exchequer, Rolls Ser., p. 397; Round, *Rot. de Dominabus*, p. xlii, is clearly wrong in writing that they were granted to her by Roger Bigot). . . ."

Miss Ethel Stokes, in the essay on "Mowbray" in *The Complete Peerage*, ix, says, p. 367: "He [William d'Aubigny Pincerna] m. Maud, da. of Roger le Bigod, by his 2nd wife, Alice, da. of Robert de Tosny, lord of Belvoir,(d) by whom he was father of William d'Aubigny, Earl of Arundel (see sub Arundel)." Footnote (d) reads: "See text and notes in Norfolk."

I. J. Sanders, *English Baronies*, in his discussion of Belvoir, Leicestershire, p. 12, says: "Robert de Toden, Domesday lord of Belvoir, d. 1088. William, s. and h., d.s.p. when his heir for Belvoir was his sister Alice.

"Alice m. Roger Bigod d. 1107 of Framlingham, q.v. She d. post Aug. 1127 leaving Cecily.

"Cecily m. William I de Albini Brito d. 1133-55.[3] William II d'Aubigny d. 1168 leaving William III, a minor, d. 1236. . . ."

Footnote 3 reads: "Regesta, ii, no. 1495; Rutland MSS, iv, pp. 144, 161. William seems to have controlled part of the Belvoir estate before the death of Alice (*idem*, p. 107). William witnesses letters dated 1133 but the early pipe rolls of Henry II give no evidence of his death (Regesta, ii, nos. 1777, 1798)."

[Sanders' phrase, "leaving Cecily," clearly implies, from his usage throughout ". . . as daughter and heir."]

Anthony Wagner, *English Genealogy*, p. 66, comments: ". . . William d'Aubigny the Breton did indeed succeed a son of Robert de Tony at Belvoir, but it was, as Round showed, in virtue of his marriage to

Robert's granddaughter Cicely.[3]" Footnote 3 reads: "Hist. MSS. Comm. MSS. of the Duke of Rutland, iv. 106; Complete Peerage, ix, 577.

Weis, Magna Charta Surities, 4th ed., 157:2, reads: "Maud Fitz Robert, b. bef. 1134; m. William II (called le Breton) D'Aubigny, son of William D'Aubigny of Belvoir (d. 1155/6) and grandson of Robert de Toeni, Lord of Belvoir." [This should actually read "great-grandson," but the intent of denoting a direct line of descent is clear.]

On 2 Dec 1997, Todd A. Farmerie <ta...@po.cwru.edu> wrote an article on the subject "Aubigny," in which he states that Maud and Cecily Bigod were full sisters, but daughters of Roger Bigod's first wife, Adelaide, not daughters of Alice de Toden. The reference which Todd gives which is most pertinent to this identification of parentage, I take it, is to Andrew Wareham, "The motives and politics of the Bigod family, c. 1066-1177," Anglo-Norman Studies XVII: Proceedings of the Battle Conference, 1994, pp. 223-242.

Wareham does indeed, first on a charted family tree on p. 230, clearly assign all three daughters, Gunner, Cecily, and Matilda to Adelaide, the first wife of Roger Bigod. He thereafter refers to these three sisters as step-daughters of Alice de Tosny, or as half-sisters of Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk.

Although his essay densely cites primary or near-primary sources, Wareham does not explicitly point out any document which would confirm his assignment of parentage. It is as though his family tree were the "received wisdom." Indeed one finds no clue, when reading his essay, that anyone had ever thought that Cecily Bigod, for example, was a daughter of Alice de Tosny. None of the sources which I quoted above are referred to.

On p. 231 Wareham says: ". . .By 1130 Roger's widow Alice de Tosny still owed a relief of [pounds] 198 for the inheritance of her father's estates, but the Tosny fees in Leicester [presumably Belvoir] which formed the dowry of Alice's step-daughter Cecily Bigod were under the control of the latter's husband, William d'Albini Brito. . . ." Wareham argues that King Henry I effectively disinherited Alice de Tosny after Roger Bigod's death and before his children came of age, but, perhaps because he did not consider it problematical, he does not make it clear in the text that his sources specify that Cecily was a step-daughter rather than a full daughter. The parentage of these Bigod sisters is not, of course, the primary topic of Wareham's essay.

On page 234 Wareham says: "Hugh Bigod's loss of ten knights fees to the husband of his half-sister may have cut very deep, and the only record of a gift passing the other way was that of three hides and forty acres which William I d'Albini granted to Thetford Priory. This was barely a token in comparison to Matilda Bigod's dowry.[69] In nine of Hugh Bigod's charters does he make provision for the souls of his half-sisters and their descendants, but a charter drawn up for William I d'Albini records how at the death of Matilda Bigod her husband was weeping and bewailing his loss.[70] . . ."

Footnote 69 reads: "Monasticon v. 142."

Footnote 70 reads: "BL ms Landsdowne 229 fo. 148, Vitellius F iv, fos 159v and 176 (Bigod); and BL ms Titus C viii, fos 18-18b (d'Albini)."

I would like to know whether any of these charters providing for the souls of Hugh's half-sisters, indeed make it explicit that Cecily and/or Maud is indeed a half-sister, daughter of Adelaide. But, alas, I cannot even decipher his footnotes. Should I actually locate the manuscripts referred to, I would surely need someone to translate.

I do wish historians who depict family relations would directly address at least those genealogists of good repute who have drawn contradictory inferences. Has anyone read the relevant materials which Wareham cites? Do they prove his version of the Bigod family tree, or disprove the tree presented at the outset?

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Notes for Adeliza de Grantmesnil:
AKA Alice of Toeni

Notes for Adelisa de Toeni:
Eventual heiress of Belvoir as her brother William d.s.p.
AKA Toeni, Tosny

Children of Roger Bigod and Adeliza are:
i. William Bigod, died 1120.

Notes for William Bigod:
Lord of Framlingham. Was dapifer to the king and perished with the king's children and several of the nobility in the wreck of the "White Ship", which

occurred in the 20th year of King Henry I. William was succeeded by his brother, Hugh. William d.s.p.

ii. Gunnor Bigod (Source: Prosopon, 9.), married Robert FitzSwein of Essex.

Children of Roger Bigod and Adelisa are:

i. Hugh Bigod , Sir (Source: BxP, 53.), born Abt. 1102 in NOR, ENG; died Bef. 6-Mar-1176/77; married Juliana de Vere.

Notes for Hugh Bigod , Sir:

First Earl of Norfolk. When his elder brother William accidentally drowned with the king's children in a shipwreck and leaving no issue, Hugh succeeded as lord steward of the King's household to King Henry I. He was mainly instrumental in raising Stephen, Count of Boulogne, to the throne, and was rewarded with the earldom of East Angles [Norfolk & Suffolk] about 1140. He was faithful in his allegiance to King Stephen and continued to enjoy royal favor, being re-created Earl of Norfolk and suffolk by Henry II, and obtaining a grant of the office of lord high steward of the kingdom, an office his father had held. In 1177, as a Crusader, he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and died in 23rd of king Henry II before March.

Homer Beers James Genealogy shows a second marriage to Adeliza (Alice) Clare, daughter of Gilbert de Tonebridge and mother of Roger.

13 ii. Matilda Bigod, born Abt. 1080 in ENG; died Abt. 1129; married William d'Aubigny Abt. 1101 in NOR, ENG.

iii. Cecily Bigod, married William d'Aubigny Brito.

Notes for William d'Aubigny Brito:

William d'Aubigny Brito [le Breton] was granted Belvoir by Henry I, d. 1143-6. He married Cecily Bigod, daughter of Roger Bigod.

28. Henry II de Louvaine, born in FRA; died Aft. 1077. He was the son of 56. Lambert II de Louvain and 57. Oda de Verdun. He married 29. Adelaide von der Betuwe.

29. Adelaide von der Betuwe, born Abt. 1045; died Aft. 1086. She was the daughter of 58. Eberhard von der Betuwe and 59. Tristerbaut.

Notes for Henry II de Louvaine:

Count of Louvain and Lorraine

Child of Henry and Adelaide is:

14 i. Godfrey I de Brabant, born Abt. 1060; died 25-Jan-1139/40 in Jerusalem, Palestine; married (1) Ida de Namur.

30. Otto II de Chiny, born Abt. 1055; died 28-Mar-1125. He was the son of 60. Arnold II of Chiny and 61. Adela de Rameru. He married 31. Adelaide of Namur.

31. Adelaide of Namur, born 1068; died 1124. She was the daughter of 62. Albert III de Namur and 63. Ida von Sachsen.

Notes for Otto II de Chiny:

Count of Chiny and Namur, a monk when he died.

Child of Otto and Adelaide is:

15 i. Ida de Namur, born 1083; died Abt. 1120; married Godfrey I de Brabant.

THE END--unless anyone wants more.

Always optimistic--Dave