

Chapter 1 : Full text of "The Conqueror and his companions"

The Conqueror and his companions. by PlanchÃ©, James Robinson, Publication date Topics William I, King of England, or

Recognized Companions The list of companions of William the Conqueror recognized by the Augustan Society for the purpose of membership in the Society of Descendants of the Conquest in the Companion class is that given in Leslie G. Twenty of these are also given in The Complete Peerage, Vol. The possible qualifying ancestors actually number fewer than 39, however, for only about a dozen have surviving descents. Robert de Beaumont, later Earl of Leicester. Geoffrey of Mortagne, afterwards Count of Perche, whose line later became extinct. William FitzOsbern, 1st Earl of Hereford. This line became extinct in the 14th Century. Aimery, IV Vicomte of Thouars. The male line extinct, but descendants of his daughter, Alice, exist. His heiress married Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. His grandson William, 3rd Earl Warren, left an heiress from whom descended the later family of Warrene, Earls of Surrey. This may be the only Companion of the Conqueror from whom male lines exist. Engenulf de Laigle, killed at Hastings. His son was Gilbert de Aquila. He left illegitimate issue in France. Roger, son of Turolde. Died in Hastings campaign. Erchembald, son of Vicomte Erchembald. Robert FitzErneis, died at Hastings. Ralf, or Rudolf Tancarville, the Chamberlain. Alan the Red, brother of Brian of Brittany. Robert de Mortain, Earl of Cornwall, brother of the half-blood to William. Last modified 24 September The Augustan Omnibus, issue , Nov.

Chapter 2 : WILLIAM DE WARREN The Conqueror and His Companions - HEYDON-HAYDON-HAYDEN-

G. Andrews Moriarty "The Companions of the Conqueror" October , The American Genealogist, Vol. 21 No.2, pp. Anthony J. Camp's book My Ancestors Came with the Conqueror - summarizes and synthesizes the findings of his predecessors.

Edit This knight depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry detail of above appears below the marginal legend E[He has therefore been identified as Eustace, Count of Boulogne. However, others state the figure to be Turstin FitzRolf, due to its carrying of a standard depicting a cross, apparently the Papal Banner. Turstin was described as having carried the "Standard of the Normans" by Orderic Vitalis Many ancient English families of Norman origin have claimed amongst their ancestors a participant at the Battle of Hastings as a matter of great pride giving them legitimacy in the higher echelons of the British aristocracy. The large majority of these claims are based on legend and cannot be proven by historical evidence. Many hundreds of Norman, Breton, Flemish and other nobles of varying degrees certainly fought with the Duke at Hastings, yet the fact remains that the names of only 15 of these are recorded in contemporary historical sources considered to be unimpeachable. Many lists and "rolls" of so-called Companions have been drawn up over the ages, and continue so to be, yet the 3 unimpeachable sources remain as follows: Between all three sources only 15 names result. After serving as a soldier he studied at Poitiers then returned to Normandy to become chaplain to Duke William and archdeacon of Lisieux. He died in His work is a eulogistic biography of the Duke. It gives a detailed description of the preparations for the Norman Conquest of England , the Battle of Hastings and its aftermath. The work forms the basis for much of the writing of Orderic Vitalis. He started his great work, commissioned to be primarily a history of his monastery, in about and continued it until his death in The Bayeux Tapestry , an annotated pictorial representation of the Norman Conquest. It was probably made at Bayeux, Normandy, shortly after the event in the 11th century. These 3 sources are unfortunately manifestly inadequate, as all are primarily from a Norman perspective. William of Poitiers, chamberlain to Duke William and a trained knight, who provides the most detail, was absent in France during the battle, and betrays severe prejudices in respect of Breton culture and their role at Hastings. Both William and Orderic state that the Bretons were a major component of the battle array, but neither names any of the Bretons present. List of 15 "Proven Companions".

*The Conqueror and His Companions, Vol. 2 of 2 (Classic Reprint) [James Robinson Planché] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Joste la Compagnie de Neel, Chevalcha Raoul de Gael.*

Heydon notation in paragraph 4. Fortunately we have made his acquaintance some time previous to the Conquest, and there are circumstances of much more importance and interest connected with him than the well-fitting of his helmet. His parentage has been variously represented, and that of his wife the subject of the keenest controversy. To begin with the beginning. Martin, and many others, were the issue of some of the numerous nieces of the Duchess Gunnor "Nepotes plures predicta Gunnora", who have been inaccurately set down as kinsmen instead of distant connections of her great-grandson the Conqueror. William de Warren, to whom the Duke of Normandy gave the Castle of Mortemer, was a young man, we are told, at that period, and would, therefore, scarcely have attained the prime of life in He is named amongst the principal persons summoned to attend the Council at Lillebonne, when the invasion of England was decided upon, and was no doubt present in the great battle, for his services in which he received as his share of the spoil some three hundred manors, nearly half that number being in the county of Norfolk. Of his personal prowess no special anecdote has been preserved, and it is as the husband of the mysterious Gundred, or Gundrada, that his name has descended to the present day with any special interest attached to it. Whether the hand of this lady was bestowed upon him previously to his services at Senlac, or as a part of his reward for them, does not appear, and our ignorance of the date of their marriage has been the principal obstacle in the way of those who have so hotly disputed her relationship to William the Conqueror, for could we even arrive at an approximate date it might enable us to calculate her probable age at that period, and whether she was born before or after , on which fact depends the whole question. Was she then the sister of Gherbod the Fleming, Earl of Chester, as Orderic Vital distinctly describes her, without the slightest allusion to her parents? And, if so, was Queen Matilda the mother of both by a previous marriage, which has been utterly ignored by contemporary writers, and never yet established by recent investigators? Freeman accepts that interpretation, and I can advance no argument in dispute of it. It is much more likely, as he observes, that a stepfather should call the daughter of his wife his daughter, than that a husband should speak of the mother of his wife in anything but a strictly literal sense. Then how are we to account for the universal silence of the chroniclers, native and foreign, on the subject? Freeman quotes the instance of their apparent ignorance of the marriage of Robert the Devil with the widow of UIF; but this is a much more important case. We have the unequivocal declaration of William de Warren that Queen Matilda was the mother of his wife, and unless that charter is spurious, of which there is not the slightest suspicion, the evidence to that extent is conclusive. But we have not yet done with riddles. Amongst the benefactors of Bermondsey, I find one Richard Guett, recorded as brother of the Countess of Warren, and the donor of the manor of Cowyke to the monks of that abbey, 11th of Rufus, A. Gundred at that period had been dead thirteen years; but that she is the person alluded to there can be no doubt, as she is styled only "Comtesse Warenne;" whereas Isabelle de Vermandois, wife of her son, the second William, was Countess of Warren and Surrey. Then who was this Richard Guett? Was he another child of Matilda of Flanders, a brother or halfbrother of Gherbod and Gundred, or a brother-in-law, for the old writers pay little attention to these nice distinctions, as we have seen in the case of Odo of Champagne? Had Matilda of Flanders as many husbands as Adelaide, Countess of Ponthieu, and, like her, issue by each? What was the real cause of the inhibition of her marriage with William, Duke of Normandy, "its delay for six years? Queen Matilda as a year-old girl was a monstress teenager witch with a real attitude problem. I have hesitated to believe in the popular tradition that Duke William grossly assaulted the daughter of Baldwin in the street or in her own chamber, not that I have any doubt about his being capable of such an outrage, but because he was too politic to commit it, and she was not the woman to have forgiven it, assuming that the offence was the simple refusal of his hand on the ground of his illegitimacy. It is obvious, however, that the early life of Matilda is involved in mystery, and it is highly probable that a clearer insight into it would enable us to account for much

which we now reject as legend, or fail to reconcile with acknowledged facts. Brihtric, the son of Algar or Alfar, surnamed Meaw Snow, from the extreme fairness of his complexion, an Anglo-Saxon Thegn, possessor of large domains in England, had been sent on an embassy from King Edward the Confessor to the Count of Flanders. Matilda, we are told, fell desperately in love with him, and offered herself to him in marriage! Either disgusted by her forwardness, or preferring another, he declined the flattering proposal. The unfortunate Thegn was arrested at his house at Hanley, in Worcestershire, on the very day Saint Wulfstan had consecrated a chapel of his building, dragged to Winchester, and died in a dungeon! The truth of this story is supported by the impartial evidence of Domesday, in which Hanley and the principal manors held by Brihtric in the time of King Edward are recorded as the possessions of Queen Matilda, and the remainder passed to Fitz Hamon. After her hand had been rejected by the noble Saxon, it is presumed she became the wife of a Fleming, named Gherbod, who appears to have held the hereditary office of Advocate of the Abbey of Saint Bertin, in St. Omers, and by whom she had at least two children, viz. Was this a clandestine or an informal marriage, which, as it has never been acknowledged by any chronicler, contemporary or other, might have been unknown to the Duke of Normandy, when he proposed to one whom he believed to be the maiden daughter of the Count of Flanders, and the corporal chastisement inflicted, however unworthy of a man, passed over, *sub silentio*, for prudential reasons, by the parties who had been guilty of a disgraceful suppression of facts? The subsequent marriage under such circumstances will awaken no surprise in any one who has studied the character of William. Utterly unscrupulous, destitute of every generous, noble, or delicate feeling, every action of his life was dictated by POLICY alone. An alliance with the Count of Flanders might be considered by the crafty schemer sufficiently advantageous to warrant his overlooking any objectionable antecedents in the conduct of a granddaughter of a king of France, his first discovery of which had provoked his savage nature into a momentary ebullition of fury. Her being the mother of two children was a point in her favour with a man whose sole motive for marrying was the perpetuation of a dynasty, and the fair prospect of legitimate issue, in whose veins the blood of the Capets should enrich that of the Furrier of Falaise, would overcome any hesitation at espousing the widow of an Advocate of St. On the other hand, Count Baldwin would be too happy to embrace the opportunity of reinstating his daughter in a position befitting her birth, and, as well as the lady herself, gladly condone past insults for future advantages and the hope of smothering, in the splendor of a ducal wedding, the awkward whispers of scandal. I have said thus much simply to show the view that may be taken of these mysterious circumstances, in opposition to the rose-colored representations of some modern historians, who, upon no stronger evidence, elevate the Conqueror into a model husband, and describe Matilda as the perfection of womankind. To return to Gundred: In either case her rejection of William " and in the latter the Papal inhibition " is perfectly understandable. Assuming the marriage, she could scarcely have been the mother of the younger Gherbod and his sister Gundred before ; and the Countess of Warren, who died in childbed in , would, according to this calculation, have then been in her thirty-fifth year. These dates are fairly presumable, and are not contradicted by any circumstances of which I am aware. In the foundation charter to Lewes, William de Warren himself tells us that he set out with his wife, Gundred, on a journey to Rome, but was unable to pass the German frontier in consequence of the war raging between the Emperor and the Pope. They therefore visited the Abbey of Cluni, where the Prior and the community most hospitably entertained them in the absence of Hugh, the Abbot. No date is mentioned, but the circumstances to which he alludes enable us to arrive at an approximate one. In the Council of Worms, 23rd of January in that year, sentence of excommunication was passed upon the contumacious Kaiser, and his subjects absolved from their oath of fidelity; and in the following year, Henry, accompanied by his wife and infant son, Conrad, presented himself as a penitent before the walls of the Castle of Canossa, in Lombardy, where the Pontiff was then residing; and after remaining for three days, with naked feet and without food, in token of his contrition, was admitted, on the fourth, to the presence of the triumphant Pontiff, in consequence of the mediation of his cousin, the Countess Matilda, the Count of Savoy, and the Abbot of Cluni, who were at that period at Canossa with his Holiness. This latter event occurred on the 26th of January , and we therefore know that Abbot Hugh was then in Lombardy. How long he was absent from Cluni on that occasion I cannot say, but we may fairly conjecture that William and Gundred were the guests of the Prior towards the close of the year , or in the early

part of , in which latter year, they having long before resolved to found some religious house for the welfare of their souls, determined that, in gratitude for their reception at the Abbey of Cluni, it should rather be of the Cluniac order than any other. Having obtained the license of King William, Abbot Hugh, at their request, sent over four of his monks, the principal of whom, named Lanzo, became the first Prior of St. Pancras at Lewes, which was founded and endowed by the Earl accordingly. The Countess died, as before stated, in , and was buried in the chapter house at Lewes. He enjoyed his new dignity but for a brief period, dying in , 8 kalends of July where, or of what disorder, is not stated , and was buried near his wife in the chapter house of Lewes. The discovery of their coffins a few years ago raised the controversy respecting the parentage of Gundred, which can scarcely even now be considered absolutely decided. As in the case of Adelaide, Countess of Ponthieu, some charter or trustworthy document may yet be discovered which will clear up, by a simple fact, the mystery surrounding the early life of the Queen of the Conqueror, and not only enable us correctly to affiliate Gherbod and Gundred, but also to identify the hitherto unnoticed claimant to the honour of being one of their nearest relations, Richard Guett, the benefactor of Bermondsey, "brother of the Countess of Warren. Lord have mercy upon me!

Chapter 4 : Robert de Beaumont, 1st Earl of Leicester - Wikipedia

The term "Companions of the Conqueror" in the widest sense signifies those who planned, organised and joined with William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, in the great adventure which was the Norman Conquest ().

It is their common method to take on trust what they distribute to the Public, by which means a falsehood once received from a famed writer becomes traditional to posterity. While retaining sufficient interest for the antiquary, it must not be "caviare to the general," for whom it is intended. Buckland, next to whom I was sitting and who, repeating the words with a chuckle, pulled out his pocket-book and "made a note of it. The majority of the audience was composed of ladies and gentlemen of more or less cultivated tastes residing in the neighbourhood, and many of the principal inhabitants of the city with their wives and families, who listened with interest to the eloquent description of their magnificent cathedral, but to whom such technical illustration as the erudite Professor would have indulged in at a meeting of the Institute of Architects would have afforded no gratification whatever. At the same time the object of these volumes would be completely defeated if I cantered carelessly over ground every foot of which presents some point of interest--some curious illustration of manners and customs--and raises some question of importance affecting the ages, actions, or characters of historical personages whose names are "familiar in our mouths as household words," and from whom so many English families are proud to trace their descent. The casual mention of the most important which is to be found in the various histories of England, affords little information respecting them, and a Baronage or Historical Peerage is, by the special nature of the work, limited to the descent of a title and the briefest possible notice of the original possessor. The more detailed biographies to be picked out of the ancient chronicles are, even when translated, not generally accessible to the public, and, being the composition of monks, are too frequently tinctured by the prejudices of the writers in favour of the benefactors or against the oppressors of their respective establishments. Nor can the information of these worthy men be implicitly relied upon. Living out of the world--in nine cases out of ten far removed from the scene of action--they must generally have been dependent on hearsay, and gathered their knowledge of events in Normandy or England from common report in their own neighbourhood or the narrations of the travellers hospitably entertained in their refectories. Even these accounts were not invariably recorded at the moment, and we have therefore to make allowances for defects of memory, errors of transcription, and inaccuracies from many circumstances too familiar to literary men to require enumeration. Every page, nearly, of these volumes will show the necessity of receiving the evidence of the most respectable authorities with the greatest caution ; of testing them by their comparison one with the other, and especially by the light of charters and official and legal records, which are themselves free from suspicion--a character, unfortunately, not enjoyed by all. Even then, where the testimony is not absolutely conclusive, we must exercise our judgment independently in our adoption of the statement, and not suffer it to be swayed by the weight of a name or the age of a document. Archaeologists are becoming daily more and more impressed with the truth, and need not my referring to it; but I am addressing the public generally, and not "a learned assembly. How far I have succeeded in doing so has yet to be proved. It is a common error, and has misled many before me. If so, it is too late to recede: A reliable list of the principal personages who actually accompanied William Duke of Normandy to England in , and were present in the great battle commonly called of Hastings, does not exist. The various versions of the Roll of Battle Abbey are admitted on all hands to be not only imperfect, but, what is worse, interpolated to an extent which it is now impossible for us to ascertain ; and the lists compiled by eminent modern French antiquaries, though no doubt containing the names of many persons not to be found in the older Rolls, but recently discovered by diligent research in authentic documents abroad, are still far from complete, and open to many objections. In professing, therefore, to write about "the Conqueror and his Companions," it was in the first place imperatively necessary to ascertain who his companions really were, and for the above reasons that was in numberless cases impracticable. Again, if I decided in favour of any particular list, it was evident on inspection that a third of my book would consist of names alone, and another third of notices, not of the companions themselves, but of their descendants, which was altogether away from my purpose in writing it. A

third reason was the number. The Roll of Battle Abbey, formerly suspended in the building, consisted of no less than names. To make a selection from these--to compile, in fact, a list of my own, would have been as presumptuous as invidious. Hundreds who believe their ancestors "came over with the Conqueror," because their names, or something like them, are to be found in one of these doubtful documents, would naturally have felt offended at my omission of them. I saw but one way to justify my title and avoid offence, and that was to limit my notices to those personages who are recorded by contemporary or nearly contemporary writers as having been present in the Norman host at Hastings, or at least conspicuous in England during the four years immediately following, at the expiration of which period that is, in the subjugation of the entire kingdom was virtually accomplished. With this object I decided on taking the elaborate account of the invasion and the battle given by Master Wace in his "Roman de Rou" as the foundation of my work, supplementing and illustrating it by the information directly or indirectly afforded me by writers who were actually living at the time of the Conquest, or must have known and conversed with persons who, if not present themselves in the conflict, retained a vivid recollection of the event, or had gathered the reports of it from those who were. Wace, born in Jersey at the commencement of the reign of Henry I. The early portions of his "Roman" he copied from Dudo, Dean of St. The writers contemporary with the Conquest, in addition to those already mentioned, were, 1, Guillaume de Poitiers, the chaplain of Duke William; 2, the author of a Latin poem on the Battle of Hastings, supposed to have been Guy, Bishop of Amiens, almoner to the Duchess Matilda; 3, Orderic Vital, author of the Ecclesiastical History, born at Atcham, near Shrewsbury, in , in which city he was sent to school, when five years old, by his father Odelirius, who was in the service of the powerful Roger de Montgomeri, Earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury. At the age of ten he was transferred to Normandy, and became a monk in the Abbey of Ouche, otherwise St. All the subsequent chroniclers and historians, both foreign and English, are mere copyists of each other in rotation until they arrive at their own times, and are rarely, therefore, of assistance to us in the investigation of those of the Conqueror. The personages distinctly named or apparently indicated by Wace amount altogether to one hundred and eighteen, twenty-seven of whom are either progenitors of some of the most illustrious families in England, or have indelibly made their mark in its history for good or for evil. Of these the reader will find notices containing all the information I have been able to scrape together, biographical or genealogical. The remainder, less known, and in some cases not identified, and therefore furnishing no materials for memoirs, I have arranged alphabetically in the last chapter of the second volume, accompanied by the annotations of Monsieur Le Provost and Mr. Edgar Taylor, the French and English editors of the Roman de Rou, and such of my own as I have been able to add to them. Wace honestly says at the conclusion of what may be called his Roll, "many other Barons there were whom I have not even mentioned, for I cannot give an account of them all, nor can I describe all their deeds, for I would not be tedious; neither can I give the names of all the Barons, nor the surnames of all who came from Normandy and Brittany in the company of the Duke. However it may be regretted that a complete and authentic catalogue has not been handed down to us, We must console ourselves with the reflection, that of the host of Norman, Breton, Angevine, Poitevine, Flemish, and other foreign families represented by one or more members in that great expedition, hundreds would simply contribute to swell the already too long list of names to which no personal history attaches -no general interest could now be imparted. In conclusion let me observe, that having described herein the few works that can be looked upon at all in the light of authorities for the Life and Times of William the Conqueror, I have abstained from encumbering my pages with unnecessary notes and references. Most persons of ordinary education are cognizant of many other facts connected with his history and that of his Queen Matilda: I am not going to fight the battle over again, nor repeat the often told story of the Conquest and its consequences. It is a personal and domestic, not a general or political, history I am writing, and the great public events of the reign of William the Conqueror will be only alluded to in support or contradiction of statements which are disputable, or when newly discovered or hitherto neglected details can add to their interest or contribute to their illustration. There are two recently published works which it may be thought have anticipated to a great degree the observations I am about to make respecting the Conqueror: The same observations may apply to the late Sir F. Strange as this may appear to many of my readers, such is nevertheless the case, as I found on examination of the materials requisite for the compilation

of this memoir. His father was Robert I, Duke of Normandy, styled by some "the Magnificent," from his liberalities and love of splendour; "the Jerusalemite," in consequence of his pilgrimage; and by others less courteously "the Devil," though wherefore or at what period has not been satisfactorily ascertained. He was a burghess of Falaise, and a tanner. Pelletier signifies a furrier, skinner, or fellmonger, and Parmentier a tailor. The vendor of furs must have been of some importance in those days, when garments lined or trimmed with fur were worn by both sexes and all classes; from the princely ermine, the sumptuous sable, the vair and minie-vair of the nobility to the humble budge or lambskin of the citizen or artisan. Leather must also have been in great demand, for not only were leathern jackets and leggings worn by workmen, but archers and the common soldiery were equipped with leathern Jaques; that is, coats made of what is called "jacked leather," and the Anglo-Saxons we find wearing helmets made of the same material. The furrier, skinner, or leather-seller would then, as in the present day, not only sell the materials but the robes, mantles, or vestments, the jaques, or coats of which they were made, or with which they were lined and ornamented, and "Parmentier" tailor would be considered probably in the eleventh century a more contemptuous allusion to the maternal descent of the chivalrous young duke than "Pelletier," furrier, or skinner. It is true that at Falaise there were in former times many tanneries, of which only three of importance remained in Galeron, "Histoire de Falaise," p. Dress and Habits of the People of England, vol. I] and the distinction may be thought by some of little consequence, particularly as in the eleventh century the trades might have been combined; but it would be interesting to ascertain the origin of the English designation, which is certainly not justified by either the French or the Latin versions of the story. And who were the parents of Herleve, whatever may have been their occupation? Here, again, we meet with nothing but contradictions: Fact and Fiction, like the old powers of light and darkness, struggling for mastery. That her father was a burghess of Falaise in some way of trade is incontestable. Sir Francis Palgrave Hist. But what was his name? By one he is called Fulbert and Robert; by another Richard, with the sobriquet or descriptive appellation of Saburpyr, which has yet to be explained; while a third names him indifferently "Herbert or Verperay. Galeron, Histoire de Falaise , p. The narrator of this last version also tells us that Count Robert saw the daughter of his provost or bailiff dancing, and fell in love with her, but that the daughter of the tanner was substituted for her. Another story is that it was Herleve herself whom he first saw dancing; and the third version is that Robert, returning from hunting, saw Herleve washing linen in the brook which runs through the dell below the castle; while the tradition popular in the place itself is that he observed her so occupied from a window of the castle, which is still pointed out to the tourist, as well as the very apartment in which William was born, though it is doubtful if any portion whatever of the original structure is in existence, or that he could possibly have discerned her from it in any case. Whether any grains of truth will ever be picked out of this bushel of fable I will not presume to say. There is nothing improbable in either of the former stories, but as they differ one from another, no dependence can be placed on any one of them. Count Robert, a young, gay, voluptuous prince, would not be many days in Falaise without knowing by sight every girl with any pretension to beauty in his little capital. He is just as likely to have seen Herleve at mass or in the market, in the streets of Falaise, or in the shop of her father, probably his own furrier, for according to certain local documents it would seem that William was born in a house belonging to his grandfather in the old market-place of that town, and that he was baptized in the parish church dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Recherches Historiques sur Falaise, The site on which the present building stands is described in old documents as "Le manoir du Duc Guillaume. That he did so, and cursed the babe, adding prophetically, "for by thee and by thy descendants great mischief will be worked to me and mine. All we can tolerably rely on is, that Robert, while only Count of the Hiemois, became enamoured of the daughter of a burghess of Falaise, that he made her his mistress, and had by her two children: William, who succeeded him, and Adelaide, or Adeliza, who eventually married Enguerrand, Count of Ponthieu, and has been an awful stumbling-block in the paths of the genealogists vide p. Herleve is said to have been extremely beautiful, and was not yielded to the young Count by her father without considerable reluctance. Throw open the gates, beaux amis! Her brother Walter was also attached in some capacity to his person. Their residence in the market-place, we may presume, was now exchanged for an official one, either at Falaise or Rouen, and Herleve and her children were no doubt installed in the ducal apartments. Much wilt thou conquer and obtain.

Quickly hast thou filled thy hands and thine arms with the first stuff thou couldst lay hold of. His auditors, amongst whom was his uncle Robert, Archbishop of Rouen and Count of Evreux, who had himself pretensions to that succession, strongly opposed his proposition. To leave Normandy under such circumstances would be ruin to it. The Duke was conjured to remain at home and protect the duchy from the inroads of the Bretons and Burgundians. I have no direct heir, but I have a little boy, who, if it please you, shall be your Duke, acting under the advice of the King of France, who will be his protector. He is little, but he will grow. I acknowledge him my son. Receive him and you will do well. It may please God that I shall return. If not, he will have been brought up amongst you. He will do honour to his culture, and, if you will promise to love and loyally serve him, I will leave him in my place. Suffice it to say, therefore, that the boy was sent for, and, whether heartily or not, the whole assemblage took the oath of allegiance and did homage to the youthful William, then between seven and eight years of age. Duke Robert lost no time in setting out on his pilgrimage, conducting on the way his son to Paris, where he caused him to do homage to the King for the Duchy of Normandy, and received personal assurance of the royal protection. There may be "more in this than meets the eye" at present. He had a castle there, and founded in its neighbourhood the Abbey of Grestain, in which he and his wife were buried. My own opinion is that the contemporary chronicler is in this instance wrong. Robert is said to have ill used and repudiated her, at what exact period is unknown; but he had no issue by her, which might possibly be one cause of his displeasure. It seems to me most probable that the marriage of Herleve and Herluin was consequent on that of Duke Robert with Estrith, and shortly after the birth of Adeliza her second child, who at the period of the pilgrimage could not have been more than six, William being only between seven and eight. Duke Robert died on his return from Jerusalem at Nikaia in Bithynia, poisoned, as it is reported, by Raoul, surnamed Mouin, and no sooner did the intelligence reach Normandy than the young heir to the duchy was subjected to all imaginable dangers and distresses. Duke William himself was afterwards charged with the crime, which, considering he was at that time a mere child, was a slander unworthy refutation, but no doubt engendered by the ill-fame of his subsequent treacheries. It would be extremely interesting if we could ascertain the amount of authority Orderic Vital possessed for the long account he makes the Conqueror give of himself on his death-bed, and from which I have made the above quotation. Prone as our ancient chroniclers are to compose orations for the illustrious personages whose deeds they record, I cannot wholly discredit this "last dying speech and confession" of William the Conqueror.

Chapter 5 : Augustan Society, Inc. -

Excerpt. Ralf, Earl Of Hereford, in the reign Of Edward the Confessor, who is, I think, unfairly accused Of cowardice in consequence of the i-ight of his troops, raw levies, hastily raised, and compelled to fight on horseback, to which they were unaccustomed, against the combined Irish and W'elsh forces under Algar, son of Leofric, in

Of this unquestioned companion of the Conqueror we have already heard, in conjunction with his ecclesiastical brother-in-arms, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, by whose side he fought, if not at Senlac, at least on other occasions, and at whose trial he presided when that rapacious primate was impleaded by Lanfranc for despoiling the see of Canterbury of much of its property. Dugdale, apparently quoting Orderic Vital, says that Geoffrey, being of a noble Norman extraction, and more skilful in arms than divinity, knowing better how to train up soldiers than to instruct his clergy, was an eminent commander in that signal battle near Hastings, in Sussex. The words of Orderic are not quite so precise as respects the battle; he says that the Bishop rendered essential service and support at it, but neither by him nor by any other writer is it indicated that he was intrusted with a command in it. Montbrai Moubrai is a commune in the canton of Percy, arrondissement of St. Its name was corrupted in England into Mowbray, which, after its assumption by the family of Albini, I need scarcely observe, became one of the noblest in England. Bishop Geoffrey appears to have preferred the name of St. The first time we hear of him after the battle is at the coronation of William in Westminster Abbey, when, "at the instigation of the Devil," says the pious Orderic, an unforeseen occurrence, pregnant with mischief to both nations and an omen of future calamities, suddenly occurred. For when Aldred, the Archbishop, demanded of the English, and Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances, of the Normans, whether they consented to have William for their King, and the whole assembly with one voice, though not in one language, shouted assent, the men-at-arms on guard outside the Abbey, hearing the joyful acclamations of the people within in a language they did not understand, suspected some treachery, and rashly set fire to the neighbouring houses. The flames spreading, the congregation, seized with a panic, rushed to the doors in order to make their escape, and a scene of the utmost confusion ensued, during which the ceremony of the coronation was with difficulty completed by the trembling clergy, the mighty Conqueror himself being seriously alarmed, not so much for his life as for the evil effects of this untoward event upon his new subjects. In , when the West Saxons of Dorset and Somerset made an attack on Montacute, Bishop Geoffrey, at the head of the men of London, Winchester, and Salisbury, fell upon them by surprise and routed them, putting many to the sword and miserably mutilating the prisoners. In he was appointed to represent the King at the trial of Bishop Odo, on the complaint of the Archbishop of Canterbury, as already mentioned; and three years later we find him again in arms beside that same Odo, marching to suppress the rebellion of the Earls of Hereford and Norfolk, and for these and other services he was rewarded by the Conqueror with "two hundred and eighty vills, which are commonly called manors. His son, Robert de Mowbray, Earl of Northumberland, having joined in the conspiracy against William Rufus in , was taken prisoner, and languished, we are told, thirty years in a dungeon at Windsor. Orderic describes him as distinguished for his great power and wealth, his bold spirit and military daring causing him to hold his fellow nobles in contempt, and being inflated with empty pride, he disdained obedience to his superiors. In person he was of great stature, size, and strength, of a dark complexion, and covered with hair. He was bold, but at the same time crafty. His features were melancholy and harsh. He reflected more than he tallied, and scarcely ever smiled when he was speaking. It does not appear clearly by whom Robert de Mowbray was made Earl of Northumberland. After the beheading of Waltheof, -- one of the worst of the many infamous acts of William the Conqueror, -- in , the government of the province appears to have been confided to Walcher, Bishop of Durham, who was murdered during a popular commotion in The earldom was then, it would seem, conferred on one Alberic, a Norman by birth, of whom a strange story is told. Being a person of great authority, and not satisfied with his own condition, he consulted the Devil, and was told that he should possess Greece. Whereupon he made a voyage into that country; but when the Greeks understood that his object was to reign over them, they despoiled him of all that he had with him, and expelled him the realm. Wearied with travel he returned to Normandy, where King

Henry gave him a noble widow in marriage, and the priest at the altar asking the woman, whose name was Gracia, "Wilt thou have this man? As late as 1st of Rufus, Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances, witnesses the charter of foundation of St. The latter may have either resigned or forfeited the earldom when he left England on his Grecian expedition, and Bishop Geoffrey held the government of the county until his death in , when his nephew Robert, succeeding to all his vast estates, was probably advanced to the dignity of Earl of Northumberland by Rufus. At any rate, I have not been able to arrive at any nearer approach to the fact. Orderic informs us that their union took place only three months before his insurrection, and that she was therefore early deprived of her husband, and long exposed to deep suffering, as during his life she could not, according to the law of God, marry again. At length by licence of Pope Paschal, before whom the case was laid by learned persons, after a long period Nigel de Albini took her to wife. Of her treatment by him we shall discourse hereafter. I have only mentioned the fact here as affecting the date of the dissolution of the marriage, Paschal II having succeeded to the chair of St. Peter, 15th June, and dying 21st June. Orderic Vital says in his 7th Book, that Robert de Mowbray was detained in captivity by Rufus and his brother Henry for nearly thirty-four years, living to an advanced age, without having any children. In his 8th Book, he reduces the term to thirty years, adding that "he grew old while paying the penalty of his crimes. Dugdale, who gives the earlier date of , with the addition of the statement of his being shorn a monk at St. Albans, takes not the slightest notice of these contradictions. The difference between eleven years and thirty, or four-and-thirty, is rather an important one; but I have been unable as yet to light upon any fact which would decide the question, which is only important in this inquiry as bearing upon another -- was he old enough in to be present at Hastings with his father Roger, "the Sire de Molbrai" of Wace, and therefore entitled to be included amongst the companions of the Conqueror? If so, he must have been close upon fifty at the time of his marriage, and, according to Orderic, an octogenarian at that of his death.

Chapter 6 : The Conqueror and His Companions - Pat Patterson's Pages

The Conqueror and His Companions by James Robinson Planché © Vol. 2 of 2 Domesday Book A Popular Account of the Exchequer Manuscript So Called, With Notices of the Principal Points of General Interest Which It Contains by Walter de Gray-Birch.

He has therefore been identified as Eustace, Count of Boulogne. However, others state the figure to be Turstin FitzRolf, due to its carrying of a standard depicting a cross, apparently the Papal Banner. Turstin was described as having carried the "Standard of the Normans," by Orderic Vitalis. Over the centuries since the Battle of Hastings, many people in England have claimed that an ancestor fought on the Norman side. While there is sound evidence of extensive settlement in England by people of Norman, Breton and Flemish origin after , the fact remains that the names of only 15 men who were with Duke William at the battle can be found in reliable sources. The three unchallenged sources remain as follows: The best contemporary sources[edit] Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, fighting at Hastings, holding a club. Between all three sources only 15 names result. After serving as a soldier he studied at Poitiers then returned to Normandy to become chaplain to Duke William and archdeacon of Lisieux. He died in His work is a eulogistic biography of the Duke. It gives a detailed description of the preparations for the Norman Conquest of England , the Battle of Hastings and its aftermath. The work forms the basis for much of the writing of Orderic Vitalis. He started his great work, commissioned to be primarily a history of his monastery, in about and continued it until his death in The Bayeux Tapestry , an annotated pictorial representation of the Norman Conquest. It was probably made at Bayeux, Normandy, shortly after the event in the 11th century. These three sources are unfortunately manifestly inadequate, as all are primarily from a Norman perspective. William of Poitiers, chamberlain to Duke William and a trained knight, who provides the most detail, was absent in France during the battle, and betrays severe prejudices in respect of Breton culture and their role at Hastings. Both William and Orderic state that the Bretons were a major component of the battle array, but neither names any of the Bretons present. The order in which names are listed below is that given in the respective sources: He was as yet but a young man and he performed feats of valour worthy of perpetual remembrance. At the head of a troop which he commanded on the right wing he attacked with the utmost bravery and success. William of Poitiers "With a harsh voice he Duke William called to Eustace of Boulogne, who with 50 knights was turning in flight and was about to give the signal for retreat. This man came up to the Duke and said in his ear that he ought to retire since he would court death if he went forward. But at the very moment when he uttered the words Eustace was struck between the shoulders with such force that blood gushed out from his mouth and nose and half dead he only made his escape with the aid of his followers. William of Poitiers "There were present in this battle:

Chapter 7 : Companions of William the Conqueror - Wikipedia

In professing, therefore, to write about "the Conqueror and his Companions," it was in the first place imperatively necessary to ascertain who his companions really were, and for the above reasons that was in numberless cases impracticable.

The Duke is on the right, and shows his face to encourage his followers. To the far right, holding a standard, is Eustace, Count of Boulogne see detail below , with legend above, in upper margin: William the Conqueror had men of diverse standing and origins under his command at the Battle of Hastings in With these and other men he went on in the five succeeding years to conduct the Harrying of the North and complete the Norman conquest of England. The term "Companions of the Conqueror" in the widest sense signifies those who planned, organised and joined with William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, in the great adventure which was the Norman Conquest The term is however more narrowly defined as those nobles who actually fought with Duke William in the Battle of Hastings. Proof versus legend This knight depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry detail of above appears below the marginal legend E[He has therefore been identified as Eustace, Count of Boulogne. However, others state the figure to be Turstin FitzRolf, due to its carrying of a standard depicting a cross, apparently the Papal Banner. Turstin was described as having carried the "Standard of the Normans," by Orderic Vitalis. Over the centuries since the Battle of Hastings, many people in England have claimed that an ancestor fought on the Norman side. While there is sound evidence of extensive settlement in England by people of Norman, Breton and Flemish origin after , the fact remains that the names of only 15 men who were with Duke William at the battle can be found in reliable sources. The three unchallenged sources remain as follows: The best contemporary sources Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, fighting at Hastings, holding a club. Between all three sources only 15 names result. After serving as a soldier he studied at Poitiers then returned to Normandy to become chaplain to Duke William and archdeacon of Lisieux. He died in His work is a eulogistic biography of the Duke. It gives a detailed description of the preparations for the Norman Conquest of England , the Battle of Hastings and its aftermath. The work forms the basis for much of the writing of Orderic Vitalis. He started his great work, commissioned to be primarily a history of his monastery, in about and continued it until his death in The Bayeux Tapestry , an annotated pictorial representation of the Norman Conquest. It was probably made at Bayeux, Normandy, shortly after the event in the 11th century. These three sources are unfortunately manifestly inadequate, as all are primarily from a Norman perspective. William of Poitiers, chamberlain to Duke William and a trained knight, who provides the most detail, was absent in France during the battle, and betrays severe prejudices in respect of Breton culture and their role at Hastings. Both William and Orderic state that the Bretons were a major component of the battle array, but neither names any of the Bretons present. He was as yet but a young man and he performed feats of valour worthy of perpetual remembrance. At the head of a troop which he commanded on the right wing he attacked with the utmost bravery and success. William of Poitiers "With a harsh voice he Duke William called to Eustace of Boulogne, who with 50 knights was turning in flight and was about to give the signal for retreat. This man came up to the Duke and said in his ear that he ought to retire since he would court death if he went forward. But at the very moment when he uttered the words Eustace was struck between the shoulders with such force that blood gushed out from his mouth and nose and half dead he only made his escape with the aid of his followers. William of Poitiers "There were present in this battle:

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Companions of the Conqueror and the Conqueror 3 URSO D'ABETOT (Descriptive text is taken verbatim from J. R.

PlanchÃ©. The Conqueror and His Companions.