William Devereux

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William Devereux was an Anglo-Norman nobleman living during the reigns of kings William I, William II, and Henry I of England. The Devereux, along with the Baskervilles and Pichards, were prominent knightly families along the Welsh marches at the beginning of the twelfth century, and linked to the Braose and Lacy lordships of the region. [1] William Devereux's descendants would later give rise to the Devereux Viscounts of Hereford and Earls of Essex.

Contents

- 1 Career
- 2 Family
- 3 Domesday Landholdings
- 4 Notes
- 5 References

William Devereux

Spouse(s) Hawise de Lacy

Issue

Walter Devereux, Lord of Lyonshall

Robert Devereux

Noble family House of Normandy

Father William d'Évreux

Died after 1110

Career

William was the son of William d'Évreux by a second unnamed wife. [2][3] There are indications he fought at Hastings as he was rewarded with lands along the Welsh Marches in Herefordshire and Gloucester that he held in 1086. [4] Lyonshall Castle was constructed at the direction of his overlord, Roger de Lacy during the late 11th century. When de Lacy was exiled in 1095 the castle came under more direct control of the Devereux family, and eventually they became its chief lords. [5]

William Devereux was a benefactor of the Abbey at Gloucester (St. Peter of Gloucester) during the time of King William Rufus when he granted in 1096 a hide in Herefordshire, and two tenths (duas decimas) from 'Leech and Hadrop'.^[6] He was alive in the tenth year of Henry I (1110), when he confirmed the grant of a hide in Herefordshire to St. Peter's Abbey at Gloucester.^{[7][8]} This was part of his wife's marriage dowry.

Family

William married Hawise de Lacy,^[9] daughter of Walter de Lacy.^[10] This marriage occurred after 1066 as her dowry included post-conquest land grants. They had issue:^[a]

- Walter Devereux, Lord of Lyonshall, [6][9] and a benefactor to Brecnock priory temp. Henry I^[11]
- Robert Devereux, a benefactor to Brecnock priory temp. Henry I^{[11][12]}

Domesday Landholdings

According to the Domesday Book, William Devereux held the following lands valued at about £16 in 1086 under the Tenant-in-chief Roger de Lacy:^[4]

Landholdings in the Domesday Book of William Devereux

Eastleach Turville, Gloucestershire [6][13][14][b]*Hatherop,
Gloucestershire [6][15][16]

- Ewyas (Harold), Herefordshire^{[17][18][c]}
- Putley, Herefordshire^{[19][20][21][d]}
- Street, Herefordshire^{[22][23][e][24]}
- Grendon, Herefordshire^{[25][26]}
- Elnodestune, Herefordshire^{[19][27][28][f]}
- Maund (bryan), Herefordshire^{[29][30][g][31]}
- (Rose)maund, Herefordshire^{[30][32]}

Notes

- a. ^ It was common for families to place younger sons in the clergy during this period. The Hereford Cathedral Obituary Book identifies a priest/monk, Richard Devereux, that died on 15 May 1141. He probably is a third son of William or a younger grandson. (J.S. Barrow. *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1066-1300: volume 8: Hereford*. (Institute of Historical Research, 2002). Fn 170
- b. A East Leach and Hatherop both reside in the Hundred of Brightwell's Barrow. In subsequent legal cases, it appears that Hatherop was referred to as part of East Leach, and was inherited by the de Lechlade family based on the marriage of Hugh de Lechlade with Orenge, daughter of Roger Devereux and descendent of William Devereux. East Leach would pass down to a Walter Devereux of Lyonshall, whose widow Cecilia, contested the ownership of these estates. Although, Cecilia lost her suit (Curia Regis Roll, 13 John, Michaelmas Term, membrane 6), some of East Leach was in the hands of the Devereux family as late as 1302 (Calender of Patent Rolls. 24 June, 31 Edward I (1302), membrane 20d).
- c. ^ This small piece of land is the closest of the Devereux grants to the Abbey Dore, and may be the location of the 'Woods of Huggesleg' granted by William Devereux's descendant, Roger Devereux, to the Abbey at the time of his death as referenced in A Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds in the Public Record Office (London; Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1890) in volume 1, page 277, B.673.
- d. ^ The Chapel at Putley was granted to the canons of Hereford by William Devereux. Cecilia Devereux, widow of Walter Devereux of Lyonshall, would contest the ownership of this Chapel and lose when the Canons produced the original charter. The final accord was published in: Monasticon Anglicanum. by Sir William Dugdale, knight, Volume the 6th part III. London: Published for the Proprietors by James Bohn, 12, King William Street, Charing Cross. 1846, page 1217. Cecelia Devereux still held Putley in the Testa de Nevil in 1242.
- e. ^ Street Court (so named from its position on the old Roman road) was held under the Lady Cecily Devereux by Thomas de Street, in the reign of Edward I. Cecily was the widow of Walter Devereux of Lyonshall, great-great-grandson of William Devereux
- f. ^ These lands remained in Devereux hands as late as 1308 when their ownership was contested between the sons of Hugh Devereux (De Banco Roll, Easter, 2 Edward II, No. 176, r. 51, Hereford).
- g. ^ Part of the maund grants were held later as Whitechurch Maund by Baron John Devereux (died 1392/3). See reference 24 below.

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- 3. ^ M. Jackson Crispin and Leonce Macary. Falaise Roll. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1985). page 41

- 4. ^ *a b* Anna Powell-Smith, *Open Domesday*, accessed March 18 2012, William Devereux (http://domesdaymap.co.uk/name/581900/william-devereux/)
- 5. ^ Charles Robinson. A History of the Castles of Herefordshire and their Lords. page 125
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- 8. ^ Roger Dodsworth. Monasticon Anglicanum by William Dugsdale. (London: 1673). Vol. 3, Cathedrals, page 187
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- 10. ^ Robert William Eyton. Antiquities of Shropshire. (London: JR Smith, 1857). Pages 26-29
- 11. ^ a b Brock W. Holden. Lords of the Central Marches. (Oxford; Oxford University Press, 2008). page 40
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- 17. ^ Anna Powell-Smith, *Open Domesday*, accessed March 18 2012, Ewyas (Harold) (http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/SO3828/ewyas-harold/)
- 18. ^ John Morris (editor). *Domesday Books (Phillimore Editions)*. (Chichester: 1975-1992). Hereford: Roger de Lacy, fief 10, entry 1.
- 19. ^ *a b* F.W. Maitland (editor). Bracton's Note Book. A Collection of Cases Decided in the King's Courts During the Reign of Henry the Third, Annotated by a Lawyer of that Time, Seemingly by Henry of Bratton, Volume II. London: CJ Clay & Sons, 1887. Page 182, Case 227
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