

# Ebalus, Duke of Aquitaine

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(Redirected from Ebalus of Aquitaine)

**Ebalus** or **Ebles Manzer** or **Manser** (c. 870 – 935) was Count of Poitou and Duke of Aquitaine on two occasions: from 890 to 892 and from 902 (Poitou) and 927 (Aquitaine) to his death.

Ebles was an illegitimate son of Ranulf II of Aquitaine. "Manzer" or "Mamzer" is a Jewish word that meant bastard, son of a Christian man and Jewish woman. "Mamzer." It appears that Ebles did not mind his name, and his "illegitimacy" became a part of his style.<sup>[1]</sup>

Upon the death of his father (who was poisoned), Ebles assumed his father's mantle and acquired the role of Count of Poitou. But Ebles could not hold onto the title for long. Aymar, a descendant of one of Ramnulf II's predecessors, challenged Ebles right to rule, as Ebles was merely a bastard son. In 892, Aymar, who was supported by Eudes of France, overthrew Ebles, and Ebles fled to the safety of his father's allies, Count Gerald of Aurillac and William the Pious, count of Avergne and Duke of Aquitaine.<sup>[2]</sup> William the Pious had taken Ebles under his care and assured the boy's education after the death of Ebles' father.<sup>[3]</sup>

In 902, Ebles, with the assistance of William the Pious, a distant relative, conquered Poitiers while Aymar was away, and reestablished himself in his former position. Charles III, who knew Ebles as a childhood companion, then formally invested Ebles with the title, Count of Poitou. Ebles would hold this title until his death.<sup>[3]</sup>

The comital title was the only one to which he ever had legitimate investiture. Ebles allotted the abbey of Saint-Maixent to Savary, Viscount of Thouars, who had been his constant supporter. He restructured Poitou by creating new viscounties in Aulnay and Melle and dissolved the title and position of Viscount of Poitou upon the death of its holder, Maingaud, in 925.

In 904, he conquered the Limousin.

In 911 he, with two other French commanders were aligned in opposition to Rollo, a Danish invader who had plundered the countryside. Ebles and the other two commanders intended to lead their armies in defense of the city of Chartes. Part of Rollo's army camped on a hill (Mont-Levis) north of the city, while the rest were stationed on the plains outside Chartes.<sup>[4]</sup>

On Saturday, July 20, 911, the battle between the French and Danish armies commenced. "Rollo and his forces were shamefully routed, smitten, as the legend tells, with corporeal blindness. A panic assuredly fell upon the heroic commander, a species of mental infirmity discernible in his descendants: the contagious terror unnerved the host. Unpursued, they dispersed and fled without resistance." At the end of the day, 6,800 Danes lay dead on the field of battle.<sup>[5]</sup>

Ebles was somewhat slow in arriving at Chartres, so he was unable to "take his due share in the conflict." His victorious partners proudly boasted of their success, and mocked Ebles and his tardy army. To redeem his honor and quiet the ridicule, Ebles accepted a challenge to confront the remnant of the Danish army that remained camped on the Mont-Levis. But instead of driving the Danes away, Ebles' army was defeated soundly. "In the dark of the night, the Northmen, sounding their horns and making a terrible clamour, rushed down the mount and stormed" Ebles camp. Ebles fled and hid in a drum in a fuller's workshop. His cowardice and dishonor was derided in a popular French ballad of the Plantagenet age.<sup>[6]</sup>

When Ebles' benefactor, William the Pious, died, William was succeeded as Duke of Aquitaine by William the Younger. In 927, William the Younger died, and he left his title to his brother Acfred; but Acfred did not live even a year. Acfred made Ebles his heir, and in 928 Ebles assumed the titles Duke of Aquitaine, Count of Berry, Count of Auvergne, and Velay<sup>[7]</sup>

In 929, King Rudolph started trying to reduce the power of Ebles. He withdrew from him access to Berry, then in 932 he transferred the titles of Duke of Aquitaine and Count of Auvergne to the Count of Toulouse, Raymond Pons. Moreover, the territory of La Marche, which was under the control of the lord of Charroux, vassal of Ebles, was transformed into an independent county.

## Marriage and issue

### Ebalus, Duke of Aquitaine

<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Aremburga Emilienne  Adele
<b>Noble family</b>	House of Poitiers
<b>Father</b>	Ranulf II of Aquitaine
<b>Mother</b>	?
<b>Born</b>	c. 870
<b>Died</b>	935

Ebles' first wife was Aremburga, whom he married before 10 Oct 892.<sup>[3]</sup> His second wife was Emilienne, whom he married in 911. When Emilienne died in 913/915, Ebles married Adele the following year.<sup>[8]</sup> Adele has been commonly referred to as the daughter of Edward the Elder.<sup>[9]</sup> Some sources believe that Adele was the same person as Edward's daughter, Ælfgifu, but that the confusion equating Ælfgifu to Adele arose from the fact that English historians did not recognize her name after it was translated into French. She has also been called Adela, Adele, Alaine, or Aliana.

Ebalus had one child by Emilienne, and another one by Adele .<sup>[10]</sup>

- William III of Aquitaine married Gerloc, daughter of Rollo of Normandy
- Ebalus, Bishop of Limoges and Treasurer of St. Hilary of Poitiers<sup>[11]</sup>

## See also

- Dukes of Aquitaine family tree

## Sources

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3. ^ **a b c** Manuel Ortiz de la Vega, *Los Héroes y las Grandezas de la Tierra* (Madrid: Libreria de D. Jose Cuesta, 1856), 136.
4. ^ Sir Francis Palgrave, *The History of Normandy and of England, Volume I* (London: Macmillan and Co., 1878), 676-677; Manuel Ortiz de la Vega, *Los Héroes y las Grandezas de la Tierra* (Madrid: Libreria de D. Jose Cuesta, 1856), 136
5. ^ Sir Francis Palgrave, *The History of Normandy and of England, Volume I* (London: Macmillan and Co., 1878), 677; Manuel Ortiz de la Vega, *Los Héroes y las Grandezas de la Tierra* (Madrid: Libreria de D. Jose Cuesta, 1856), 136 (this source claims that the battle occurred on Saturday, August 21, 911)
6. ^ Sir Francis Palgrave, *The History of Normandy and of England, Volume I* (London: Macmillan and Co., 1878), 678; E. Littré, *Histoire de la Langue Francaise; Etudes sur les origins, l'etymologie, la grammaire, les dialectes, la versification, et les lettres au Moyen Age. Tome 2.* (Paris: Didier, 1863), 143. The words of the ballad were: Mult par en fu puis tut le meis Estrange eschar entre Franceis; Vers en firent e estraboz U out assez de vilains moz.
7. ^ Havilland Le Mesurier Chepmell, *A Short Course of History: Second Series, Vol. II, V. History of the Middle Ages, Continued* (London: Whittaker and Co., 1857), 156; Manuel Ortiz de la Vega, *Los Héroes y las Grandezas de la Tierra* (Madrid: Libreria de D. Jose Cuesta, 1856), 136.
8. ^ Roderick W. Stuart, *Royalty for Commoners: The complete known lineage of John of Gaunt, son of Edward III, King of England and Queen Philippa* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1995), 83; Manuel Ortiz de la Vega, *Los Héroes y las Grandezas de la Tierra* (Madrid: Libreria de D. Jose Cuesta, 1856), 136.
9. ^ Sir Francis Palgrave, *The History of Normandy and of England, Volume II* (London: John W. Parker and Son, 1857), 10; E. Henry Gurney, *Reference Handbook for Readers, Students, and Teachers of English History* (Boston: Ginn & Company, 1890), 22-23; William Bernard Mac Cabe, *A Catholic History of England, Vol. II* (London: T. C. Newby, 1849), 328; James Augustus St. John, *History of the Four Conquests of England, Vol. I* (London: Smith, Elder, & Co., 1862), 348-349; M. P. Thompson, "Traditions and Folk-Lore of Poitou," *The Catholic World* 38(228) (March 1884), 779; Egerton Brydges, *Ataviæ Regiæ* (Florence: J. Marenigh, April 1820), 6 (Table XI), 64 (Table LXXXVII).
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Ebalus, Duke of Aquitaine <b>House of Poitou</b> Born: 870      Died: 935		
<b>French nobility</b>		
Preceded by <b>Ranulf II</b>	<b>Duke of Aquitaine</b> 890–892	Succeeded by <b>William I</b>
Preceded by <b>Acfred</b>	<b>Duke of Aquitaine</b> 902–935	Succeeded by <b>William III</b>
Preceded by <b>Robert</b>	<b>Count of Poitiers</b> 927–935	

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