

Richard fitz Gilbert

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(Redirected from Richard Fitz Gilbert)

Richard fitz Gilbert (bef. 1035–c. 1090), was a Norman lord who participated in the Norman conquest of England in 1066, and was styled “de Bienfaite”, “de Clare“, and of Tonbridge “[n 1][1] from his holdings.[2][3]

Contents

- 1 Biography
- 2 Rewards
- 3 Rebel Baron
- 4 Death and succession
- 5 Marriage
- 6 Notes and References

Biography

He was the son of Gilbert, Count of Brionne in Normandy.^[2] Gilbert was a guardian of the young duke William and when he was killed by Ralph de Wacy in 1040, his two older sons Richard and Gilbert fled to Flanders.^[4] On his later return to Normandy Richard was rewarded with the lordship of Bienfaite and Orbec in Normandy.^[4] In 1066, Richard came into England with his kinsman William the Conqueror, and received from him great advancement in honour and possessions.^[2]

The *Dictionary of National Biography* and other sources are vague and sometimes contradictory about when the name de Clare came into common usage, but what we do know is that Richard fitz Gilbert (of Tonbridge), the earliest identifiable progenitor of the family, is once referred to as Richard of Clare in the Suffolk return of the Domesday Book.^[5]

Rewards

He was rewarded with 176 lordships and large grants of land in England, including the right to build the castles of Clare and of Tonbridge. Richard fitz Gilbert received the lordship of Clare, in Suffolk, where parts of the wall of Clare Castle still stand.^[6] He was thus Lord of Clare. Some contemporaneous and later sources called him Earl of Clare, though many modern sources view the title as a “styled title“.

He served as Joint Chief Justiciar in William’s absence, and played a major part in suppressing the revolt of 1075.

Richard fitz Gilbert

Lord of Clare, Bienfaite, Orbec, and Tonbridge

Successor Gilbert fitz Richard

Spouse Rohese Giffard

Issue Walter de Clare, Lord of Nether Gwent
Richard fitz Richard de Clare
Roger fitz Richard de Clare
Gilbert fitz Richard
Robert fitz Richard
Rohese de Clare

Adelize de Clare

Noble de Clare

family

Father Gilbert, Count of Brionne

Born c. 1035
Normandy, France

Died c. 1090
St. Neot’s Priory, Huntingdonshire,
England

Rebel Baron

On the Conqueror's death, Richard and other great Norman barons, including Odo of Bayeux, Robert, Count of Mortain, William fitz Osbern and Geoffrey of Coutances, led a rebellion against the rule of William Rufus in order to place Robert Curthose on the throne. However, most Normans in England remained loyal. William Rufus and his army successfully attacked the rebel strongholds at Tonbridge, Pevensey and Rochester.^[7]

Death and succession

He was buried in St. Neot's Priory in 1091. His widow was still living in 1113. His lands were inherited by his son, Gilbert fitz Richard.

Marriage

Richard married Rohese Giffard, daughter of Sir Walter Giffard, Lord of Longueville and Agnes Flaitel,^[3] and they had the following children:

- Roger fitz Richard de Clare, received Norman lands and d. 1131, apparently without issue.^[3]
- Gilbert fitz Richard, d. 1115, succeeded his father as Earl of Clare.^[3]
- Walter de Clare, Lord of Nether Gwent, d. 1138.^[3]
- Richard fitz Richard de Clare, Abbot of Ely.^[3]
- Robert fitz Richard,^[3] Lord of Little Dunmow, Baron of Baynard, d. 1136.^[8]
- Alice (or Adeliza) de Clare, d. 1138. m. Walter Tirel.^{[3][9]}
- Rohese de Clare, d. 1121, m. (ca. 1088), Eudo Dapifer.^[3]

Notes and References

Notes

1. ^ Seen in the Domesday book variously as “de Tonebridge/Tonebrige/Tonbridge”

References

1. ^ Domesday Map website - image of Betchworth's entry and transcription in summary (<http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/TQ2149/betchworth/>) retrieved 2012-10-30 Normally de Tonebridge in Surrey
2. ^ **a b c** G. E. Cokayne, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. III (The St. Catherine Press, London, 1913), p. 242
3. ^ **a b c d e f g h i** Detlev Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, Band III Teilband 1 (Marburg, Germany: J. A. Stargardt, 1984), Tafel 156
4. ^ **a b** J.H. Round, 'The Family of Clare', *The Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 56 2nd series Vol 6 (1899), p. 224
5. ^ The Suffolk return of the Domesday Survey (c. 1086) (ed. A. Rumble, Suffolk, 2 vols (Chichester, 1986), 67 ~ 1)
6. ^ *The Royal Ancestry Bible Royal ancestors of 300 American Families* By Michel L. Call ISBN 1-933194-22-7 (chart 1696)
7. ^ *A Baronial Family in Medieval England: The Clares, 1217–1314* by Michael Altschul (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins, 1965)
8. ^ I.J. Sanders, *English Baronies; A Study of their Origin and descent 1086-1327* (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1963), p. 129
9. ^ C. Warren Hollister, 'The Strange Death of William Rufus', *Speculum*, Vol. 48, No. 4 (Oct., 1973), pp. 645-46

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