

Adela of France, Countess of Flanders

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Adèle of France or **Adela of Flanders**,^[a] known also as **Adela the Holy** or **Adela of Messines**; (1009 – 8 January 1079, Messines), she was the Countess of Normandy (January 1027–August 1027), Countess of Flanders (1035–1067)

Contents

- 1 Life
- 2 Family
- 3 Ancestry
- 4 Notes
- 5 References

	
	
Adèle of France	
Countess of Flanders	
Spouse(s)	Richard III of Normandy <p>Baldwin V of Flanders</p>
Noble family	House of Capet
Father	Robert II of France
Mother	Constance of Arles
Born	1009
Died	8 January 1079 <p>Messines</p>
Buried	Benedictine convent of Messines

Life

Adèle was the second daughter of Robert II (the Pious), and Constance of Arles.^[1] In January 1027 she married Richard III, Duke of Normandy.^[2] The marriage was short-lived for on 6 August of that same year Richard III suddenly died.^[2] Adela then married Baldwin V, Count of Flanders in 1028.^[3]

Adèle's influence lay mainly through her family connections. On the death of her brother, Henry I of France, the guardianship of his seven-year-old son Philip I fell jointly on his widow, Ann of Kiev, and on his brother-in-law, Adela's husband, so that from 1060 to 1067, they were Regents of France.^[4]

In 1071, Adela's third son, Robert the Frisian, planned to invade Flanders even though at that time the Count of Flanders was Adela's grandson, Arnulf III. When she heard about Robert's plans, she asked Philip I to stop him. Philip sent soldiers to support Arnulf including a contingent of ten Norman knights led by William FitzOsborn. Robert's forces attacked Arnulf's numerically superior army at Cassel before it could organize, and Arnulf was killed along with William FitzOsborn. Robert's overwhelming victory led to Philip making peace with Robert and investing him as Count of Flanders. A year later, Philip married Robert's stepdaughter, Bertha of Holland, and in 1074, Philip restored the seigneurie of Corbie to the crown.

Adèle had a strong interest in Baldwin V's church reforms and was behind her husband's founding of several collegiate churches. Directly or indirectly, she was responsible for establishing the Colleges of Aire (1049), Lille (1050) and Harelbeke (1064) as well as the abbeys of Messines (1057) and Ename (1063). After Baldwin's death in 1067, she went to Rome, took the nun's veil from the hands of Pope Alexander II and retired to the Benedictine convent of Messines, near Ypres. There she later died and was buried at the convent. Honoured as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church, her commemoration day is 8 September.

Family

Her first marriage was in 1027 to Richard III Duke of Normandy (died 1027). They had no children.

Her second marriage was in 1028 to Baldwin V Count Of Flanders (died 1067).^[3] Their children were:

- 1 Baldwin VI of Flanders (c. 1030–1070).^[3]
- 2 Matilda of Flanders (c. 1032–1083). In c. 1053 she married William, Duke of Normandy, the future king of England.^[3]
- 3 Robert I of Flanders (c. 1035–1093).^[3]

Ancestry

Notes

a. ^ Other forms of her name are **Adela**, **Adélaïde**, **Adelheid**, **Aelis** and **Alix**.

References

1. ^ Detlev Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, Neue Folge, Band II (Marburg, Germany: Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, 1984), Tafel 11
2. ^ ^a ^b Detlev Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, Neue Folge, Band II (Marburg, Germany: Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, 1984), Tafel 79
3. ^ ^a ^b ^c ^d ^e Detlev Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, Neue Folge, Band II (Marburg, Germany: Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, 1984), Tafel 5
4. ^ Detlev Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, Neue Folge, Band II (Marburg, Germany: Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, 1984), Tafeln 5, 11

Adela of France, Countess of Flanders		
House of Capet		
Born: 1009 Died: 8 January 1079		
Preceded by Papia of Envermeu	Duchess consort of Normandy 1027–1027	Succeeded by Matilda of Flanders
Preceded by Eleanor of Normandy	Countess consort of Flanders 1036–1067	Succeeded by Richilde of Hainaut

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Adela_of_France,_Countess_of_Flanders&oldid=578070718"

Categories: 1009 births | 1079 deaths | French princesses | Roman Catholic royal saints | Women of medieval France | House of Capet | Countesses of Flanders

This page was last modified on 21 October 2013 at 04:44.

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy.

Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.