

Walter of Gloucester

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Walter of Gloucester (also **Walter FitzRoger** or **Walter de Pitres**) (d. c. 1129) was an early Anglo-Norman official of the King of England during the early years of the Norman conquest of the South Welsh Marches. He was a sheriff of Gloucester and also a Constable under Henry I.

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Life

Walter of Gloucester was the son of Roger de Pitres, and his wife, Adeliza^{[a][1]} and was the earliest to use the style "of Gloucester" in his family.^[2] A landholder himself at the time of Domesday, by 1095 Walter had control of the bulk of the estates formerly held by Roger his father and Durand his uncle. In addition Walter acquired other estates by royal grants.^[3] These estates were principally in four shires, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire and Wiltshire.^[3]

He was hereditary High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1097 and 1105-6.^[4] Sometimes called Constable of England he may only have been constable of Gloucester Castle^[5] He recorded as being a constable of the royal household of Henry I from 1114 on.^[6] Walter erected or had a part in the erection of the castles of Bristol and Rochester as well as the Tower of London.^[7] Walter donated Westwood to Gloucester Abbey for the soul of his brother Herbert and confirmed a grant of Colne by his father Roger.^[1] He endowed the canons of Llanthony Priory in Wales with lands from his lordship of Beryntone and retired to the abbey in his old age where he died a monk and was buried in the chapter house,^[7] about 1129.^[8]

Family

He was married to Bertha, a relative of Hamelin de Balun, Lord of Abergavenny.^[9] They were the parents of:

- Miles of Gloucester, 1st Earl of Hereford^[1]
- Matilda, who married a Richard Fitz Pons^[1]

Notes

- ↑ The name of his mother, Adeliza, is found in *Historia et cartularium monasterii Sancti Petri Gloucestræ*, i, 81, 125, 188-9; ii, 129. See: Keats-Rohan, *Domesday People*, Vol. I, 451,

References

- ^{^ a b c d} K.S.B. Keats-Rohan, *Domesday People: A Prosopography of Persons Occurring in English Documents, 1066–1166*, Vol. I (Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 1999), p. 451
- [^] David Walker, 'Miles of Gloucester, Earl of Hereford', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, Vol. 77 (1958), p. 67
- ^{^ a b} David Walker, 'the Honours of the Earls of Hereford in the Twelfth Century', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, Vol. 79 (1960), p. 174
- [^] W.A. Morris, 'The Office of Sheriff in the Early Norman Period', *The English Historical Review*, Vol. 33, No. 130 (Apr., 1918), p. 154, note 62
- [^] J. Horace Round, *The King's Serjeants & Officers of State; With their Coronation Services* (London: The Tabard Press Limited, 1970), p. 79
- [^] J. O. Prestwich, 'The Military Household of the Norman Kings', *The English Historical Review*, Vol. 96, No. 378 (Jan., 1981), p. 19
- ^{^ a b} Arthur William Crawley-Boevey, *The cartulary and Historical Notes of the Cistercian Abbey of Flaxley; Otherwise called Deane Abbey in the County of Gloucester* (Exeter: William Pollard & Co., 1887), p. 5
- [^] I.J. Sanders, *English Baronies; A study of Their Origin and Descent, 1086–1327* (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1963), p. 7
- [^] George Edward Cokayne, *The Complete Peerage; or, a History of the House of Lords and all its members from the earliest times, Vol. VI, eds. H. A. Doubleday; Howard de Walden* (London: The St. Catherine Press, Ltd., 1926), pp. 451-2, footnote (g)

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