

Gerard Flaitel

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Gerard Flaitel († c. 1047) was a Norman knight and a ‘*most powerful lord in Normandy at the time of the Richards*’ according to Orderic Vitalis.

Life

Gerard was a Norman baron with substantial estates in the Pays de Caux, the Hiemois, the Evrecin and Risle valley.^[1] He was a vassal of William of Talou in Arques.^[2]

In 1035, when Robert I, Duke of Normandy left on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Gerard Flaitel was one of his companions.^[3] In the spring of 1035 the group left Normandy probably taking the favored route through the Danube river basin to Constantinople.^[4] Duke Robert obtained permission for he and his retinue to continue on to Muslim-controlled Jerusalem.^[4] In Turkey Robert paid the required *mussella* (pilgrim tax).^[3] They arrived in time to spend Holy Week in Jerusalem.^[3] On their return through Asia Minor, Duke Robert fell ill while they were in Nicaea, and died there about 2 July. As he lay dying Gerard was asked to take possession of a Holy relic Robert acquired in Jerusalem, reputedly a finger-bone of Saint Stephen, and to make a gift of it to the abbey or monastery of his choosing.^[3] Gerard returned to Normandy and became a monk at the Abbey of St. Wandrille taking the relic with him.^[3] He died after 1047.^[5]



Family

While the name of his wife (or wives) is not known Gerard Flaitel had the following children:

- William Flaitel, Bishop of Évreux († 1066).^[6]
- Ermengarde, wife of Walter Giffard, Lord of Longueville.^[6]
- Basilla, wife of Ralph de Gacé, son of Robert, Archbishop of Rouen and secondly of Hugh de Gournay.^[7]
- Anscherius^[8]

References

- ↑ Véronique Gazeau, *Normannia Monastica (xe–XIIe Siècle)* (Caen : Publications du CRAHM, 2007), p. 492
- ↑ Ordericus Vitalis, *The Ecclesiastical History of England and Normandy*, Trans. Robert Forester, Vol. I (London: Henry G. Bohn, 1853), p. 400
- ↑ ^{*a*} ^{*b*} ^{*c*} ^{*d*} ^{*e*} David Crouch, *The Normans* (London: Hambledon Continuum, 2007), p. 54
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- ↑ David Douglas, ‘The Norman Episcopate before the Norman Conquest’, *Cambridge Historical Journal*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (1957), p. 102 n. 15
- ↑ ^{*a*} ^{*b*} Detlev Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, Neue Folge, Band III, Tielband 4 (Marburg, Germany: J. A. Stargardt, 1989), Tafel 695
- ↑ K.S.B. Keats-Rohan, *Domesday People, A Prosopography of Persons Occurring in English Documents 1066-1166*, Volume I, Domesday Book (Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 1999), p. 263

8. ^ T.J. Pettigrew, 'On the House of Gournay', *Collectanea Archæologica: Communications made to the British Archaeological Association*, Vol. II (1871). p. 184

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