

I, WILLIAM...

KING OF ENGLAND AND DUKE OF NORMANDY

1027 - 1087



Tapiserie de Bayeux

XI^{ème} siècle

avec autorisation spéciale

de la ville de Bayeux

**THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE
OF THE DEPARTEMENTAL RECORD OFFICE**

CALVADOS

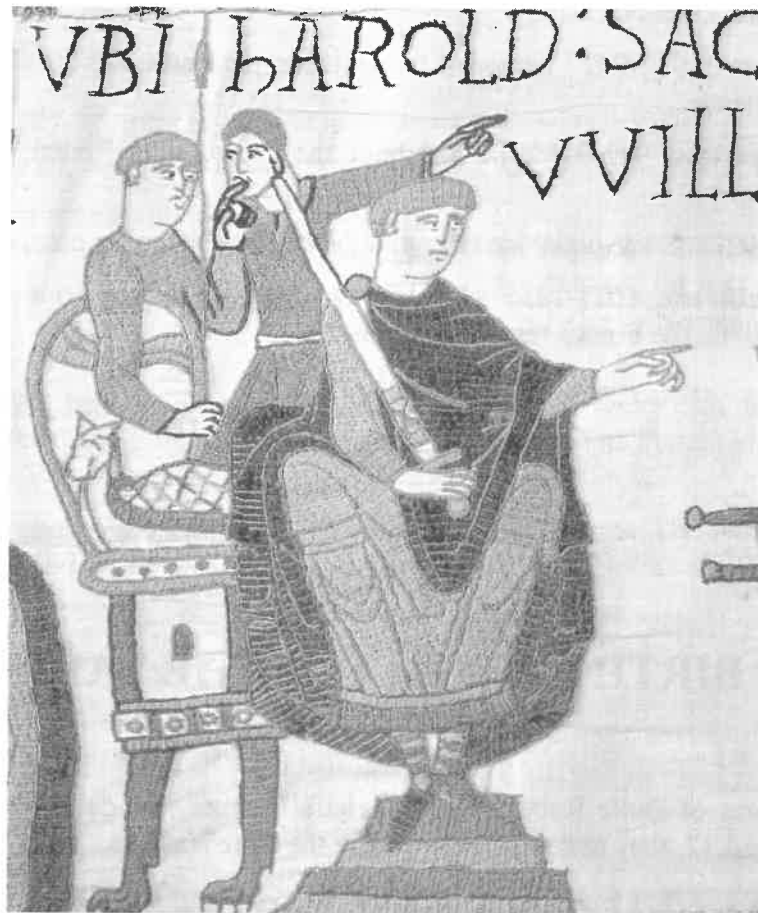
1997

Panel 1

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Panel 2

WILLIAM'S ANCESTORS

WARRIORS FROM THE NORTH

911 - 1027

Normandy, or "Normannia, country of the Norsemen" was created in 911 with the signing of the treaty of Saint Clair sur Epte. Charles the Simple, King of France, gave the former fief of Neustria to Rolf, the leader of the Viking invaders.

Rollo. 911 - 931 : Rolf the Ganger, who was of Norwegian stock, was baptised in 912 and became Rollo, the Duke of Normandy.

William Long-Sword. 932-942 : he added the Cotentin peninsula and the Channel Islands to the Duchy of Normandy.

Richard I the Fearless. 942-996 : he had built the cathedral in Rouen and the abbey in Fécamp.

Richard II. 996-1027 : it was under his reign that Normandy became a prosperous state.

Robert the Magnificent. 1027-1035 : he was the protector of the young king of France, Henry I, and was given the French region of Vexin.

Panel 3

THE BIRTH OF WILLIAM THE BASTARD

FALAISE 1027

William was the son of Duke Robert and of Arlette Vertpré, the daughter of a Falaise fur merchant. Both aged 17, they met near the spring in the Ante Valley.

“ Songié ai
K'un arbre de munt cors isseit
Ki vers li ciels amunt creisseit
Del umbre ki enturabout
Tute Normendie aubrout...”

“ I dreamed
That a tree sprang up from my body
And rose towards the heavens
And that with its shadow it covered
The whole of Normandy...”

WACE. LE ROMAN DE ROU

Panel 4

VAL ES DUNES
THE NORMAN BARONS ARE CRUSHED
10th AUGUST 1047

William's enemies :

Guy of Brionne, his cousin
Grimoult of Plessis
Néel II of Saint-Sauveur
Raoul Tesson, of Thury-Harcourt
Ranulf of Bayeux
Hamon le Dentu, of Creully

William's ally :

Henry I, King of France

Dex aie (Gold help us) William's war cry.
Thor aie (Thor help us) the war cry of the
Norman barons.

The Norman barons held it against the young 20-year old Duke that he had been born illegitimate. They formed a coalition and stirred up a rebellion. The French king, Henry I, came with his soldiers to William's aid.

The confrontation took place near Bellengreville in Val-es-Dunes. The Norman barons were mercilessly crushed and William became the undisputed ruler of Normandy.

Panel 5

THE BATTLE OF VARAVILLE
THE VASSAL OVERTHROWS THE OVERLORD
22nd MARCH 1057

King Henry of France marshalled his troops against William of Normandy, his vassal, who had become so powerful. He decided to put an end to this situation and invaded Normandy.

In Varaville, he and his men were cut off by the rising tide in the marshes of the river Dives.

The Duke of Normandy, now unconquerable, annexed the Maine.

WILLIAM AND MATILDA
A MARRIAGE BETWEEN KIN
1050

In 1050, William married Matilda of Flanders, his distant cousin, a union which was forbidden by the church.

To seek forgiveness, he had two abbeys built in Caen, the Abbaye aux Hommes for men and the Abbaye aux Dames for women.

Epistle addressed to Queen Matilda by Pope Gregory VII in 1074 :

“ We do not believe that there need be any doubt as to the salvation of she who with all her heart gives herself to God in works of charity and humility.... Take care continually to persuade the King, your husband, to seek the salvation of his soul. ”

DUKE WILLIAM OF NORMANDY
PROTECTOR OF THE FAITH

The church in the XIth century was going through a difficult period : simony (the practise of buying and selling holy objects) and clerical matrimony were commonplace.

William supported the reform of Pope Leo IX who argued for a return to the traditional values of the church.

Helped in this by Lanfranc, he set up councils and became the protector and even the undisputed head of the church in his dukedom.

He also appointed his half brother, Odo, to be Bishop of Bayeux in 1049.

The truce of god, called after the battle of Val-es-Dunes

- fighting amongst the nobility was forbidden between Wednesday evening and Monday morning.
- religious feast days had to be observed.

The councils (assemblies of Bishops)

- Caen, 1047
- Lisieux, 1055
- Winchester and Windsor, 1070
- Rouen, 1072
- Lillebonne, 1080

Panel 8

DAILY LIFE
AN ESSENTIALLY RURAL SOCIETY

In the 11th century the forest was an important part of rural life. Animals (pigs, horses, sheep and cattle) could find food and roam relatively freely.

The many woodcutters could cut down the trees and use them to make agricultural tools, weapons and boats.

The first watermills were built. There were mills for grain, but also for dying (with woad) and fulling cloth or for tanning.

When it was founded, the Abbaye aux Dames became the owner of more than 15 mills in Normandy.

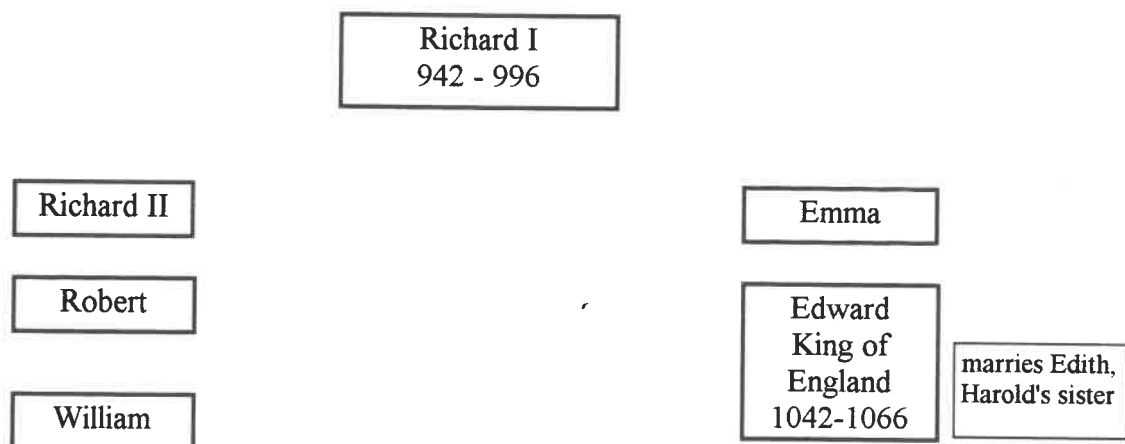
Corn, barley and oats were grown, as well as broad beans and peas.

Vines also flourished.

Salt which was extracted from the salt marshes around the Touques and the Dives was used for preserving meat and fish.

Panel 9

THE SUCCESSION OF EDWARD OF ENGLAND
A HIGHLY COVETED INHERITANCE



Edward the Confessor, who was without issue, promised the throne of England to his cousin, William.

After a journey to Normandy where he was made prisoner, Harold swore allegiance to William. When Edward died, Harold broke his oath and had himself elected king by the Saxon clan.

Panel 10

THE CONQUEST OF ENGLAND
AN EXPEDITION OVER THE CHANNEL
1066

The Duke of Normandy spent six months building up a fleet and gathering together an army in order to take the throne which he considered his.

On the expedition there were

12,000 soldiers from Normandy, Brittany, Poitou, Picardy, Anjou and Flanders.

3,000 horses.

500 boats, one of which was the Mora, a superb long boat which Matilda had given William as a present.

Panel 11

HASTINGS
SEIZING POWER
September - December 1066

The battle between the Norman and Saxon troops took place about 6 miles north of Hastings. Harold's troops found themselves powerless to contain William's mettlesome soldiers. William was victorious and Harold, together with his two brothers, was killed in battle.

Panel 12

WILLIAM, KING OF ENGLAND
MONARCH AND FEUDAL OVERLORD
1066 - 1087

William was crowned King of England, according to the ancient Anglo-Saxon rites, in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, 1066.

Matilda was crowned in 1068.

The new king set up institutions which were a subtle blend of Anglo-Saxon tradition and Norman customs leading to a reinforcement of royal authority together with a more highly developed feudal system.

THE DOMESDAY BOOK
THE BOOK OF THE LAST JUDGMENT
1086

As soon as the battle of Hastings was over, the conquerors began a general redistribution of Anglo-Saxon lands so that they now held 90% of the kingdom, hereby creating a new Anglo-Norman society.

In 1086, William had a survey of his conquests carried out, a cadaster of the whole of England in which were listed, shire by shire, village by village, the names of all the land-owners, the nature and value of their property and their income.

Later this document was called The Domesday Book because the exhaustive nature of its contents was reminiscent of the day of the Last Judgment in the Apocalypse where nothing would be passed over and the verdict irrevocable.

The point of this survey was to enable the state to :

- regularly levy the Danegeld, a public tax.
- calculate the value of the King's resources, both his own personal property and that which he owned as a feudal overlord in terms of land and men.
- settle conflicts which arose from the transfer of property.
- form a judicial basis for the new feudal order which would clearly set out who were the tenants-in-chief and who the subtenants.

The King's domain :

Made up of the lands of Edward the Confessor, of Harold and his family as well as those lands confiscated from the rebels, the royal domain was increased even further when an area of Hampshire, the New Forest, was arbitrarily set aside for William's exclusive use in his hunting pursuits.

A NEW ANGLO-NORMAN ARISTOCRACY *WILLIAM'S COMPANIONS*

The division of land as recorded in the Domesday Book reveals that vast amounts of land belonged to only a handful of big landowners, thus forming the new ruling class of England. In all, just 19 people had control of over half the kingdom.

How the land was divided up :

4 people

25% of the land in the kingdom.

William
Matilda
Odo of Bayeux
Robert of Mortain

15 people

30% of the land in the kingdom

These were William's companions who were close or distant relatives of his :
Roger of Montgomery
William Fitz Osbern
William of Varenne
Alan of Brittany
Eustace of Boulogne
Hugh of Chester
Richard Fitz Gilbert
Geoffrey of Coutances
Robert of Eu

Many ecclesiastical fiefs and 150 main tenants-in-chief

45% of the land in the kingdom

Panel 15

ANGLO-NORMAN ARCHITECTURE *USING CAEN STONE*

Once the conquest was over, there was a boom in the quarrying of Caen stone. The stone was carried up the river Orne in boats and thence over the Channel.

Stone from Bretteville-sur-Odon, Carpiquet or from Ranville was used in the construction of many buildings in England.

The churches built in this period on both sides of the Channel have many similarities. A Norman style began to evolve which took its purest forms from Romanesque art.

Panel 16

THE CASTLES UNDER WILLIAM *A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED SYSTEM OF DEFENCE*

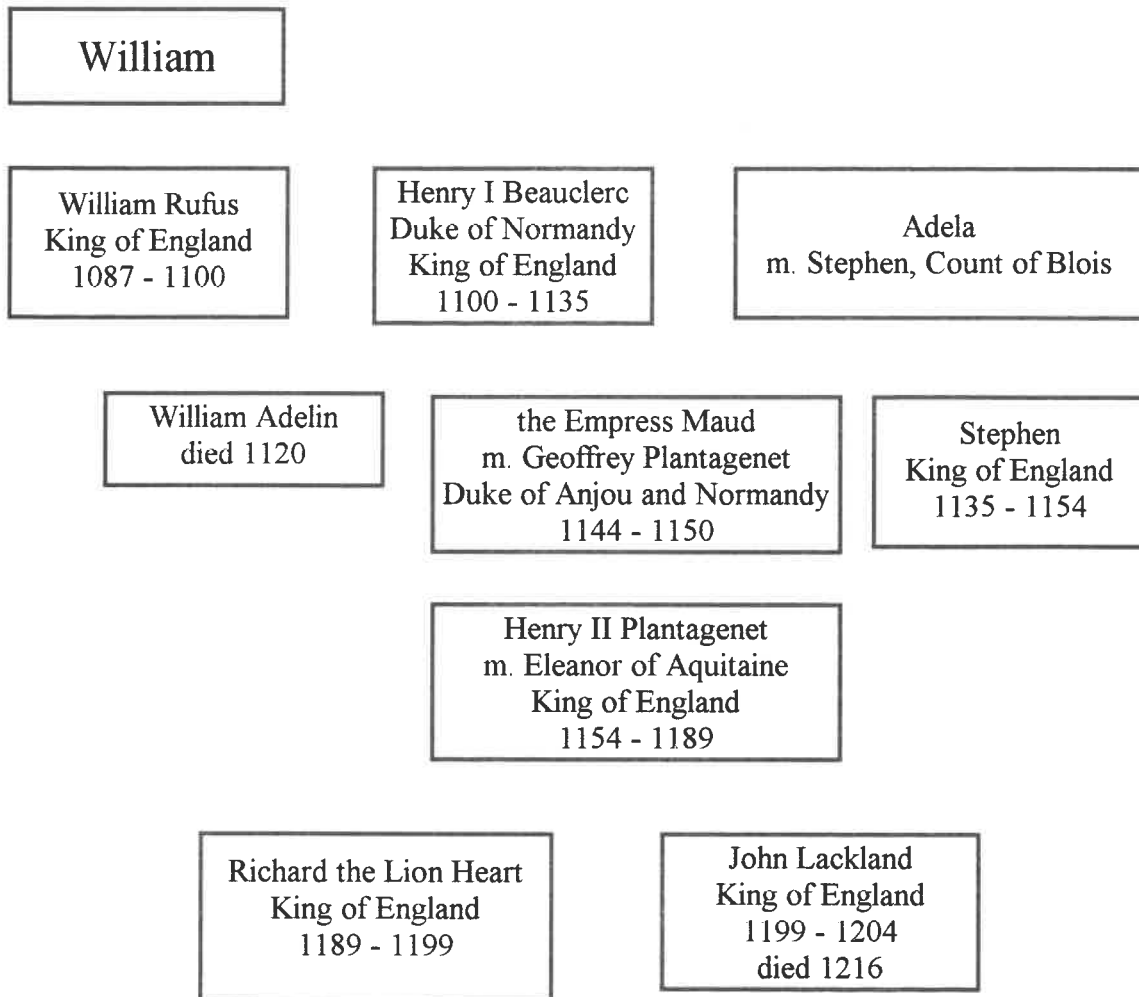
The first castles to be built were feudal mottes. A small wooden fort, surrounded by a stockade, was built on the top of a hill overlooking the surrounding dwellings.

Then William very soon had fortified castles built in strategic places such as :

- the mouths of rivers
- steep outcrops
- the coast

Sturdy ramparts protected the castle and a whole society lived within its walls, with a palace for the master, a chapel, a farm, a baker's, stables and smithies.

THE ANGLO-NORMAN KINGDOM AFTER WILLIAM 1087 - 1204



The Anglo-Norman Kingdom reached its peak in the reign of the Plantagenet King, Henry II, Count of Anjou and Duke of Normandy who, through his marriage to Eleanor, annexed Aquitaine.

In 1204, King John's residence in Château-Gaillard was stormed by Philip-Augustus' soldiers. He had to abandon his dukedom.

After almost 3 centuries of independence, Normandy became part of the kingdom of France.