# William III, Count of Ponthieu

William III of Ponthieu (c. 1093<sup>[1]</sup> – 1172) also called William (II; III) Talvas.<sup>[a]</sup> He was seigneur de Montgomery in Normandy and Count of Ponthieu.

### **Contents**

Life

**Family** 

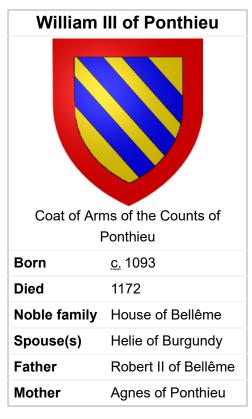
References

**Additional References** 

**Notes** 

### Life

William was son of Robert II of Bellême and Agnes of Ponthieu. [2][3][4] He succeeded his father as count of Ponthieu some time between 1105 and 1111, [2] when he alone as count made a gift to the abbey of Cluny. [3] His father Robert de Bellême had turned against Henry I on several occasions, had escaped



capture at the <u>battle of Tinchebrai</u> in 1106 commanding <u>Duke Robert's</u> rear guard and later, while serving as envoy for <u>King Louis</u> of <u>France</u>, he was arrested by Henry I and imprisoned for life.<sup>[5]</sup> William was naturally driven by this to oppose King Henry. In June 1119, however, Henry I restored all his father's lands in Normandy. Sometime prior to 1126, William resigned the county of Ponthieu to his son Guy but retained the title of count.<sup>[3]</sup> In 1135 Henry I again confiscated all his Norman lands to which William responded by joining count <u>Geoffrey of Anjou</u> in his invasion of Normandy after Henry I's death<sup>[3]</sup>

## **Family**

He married, abt. 1115, <u>Helie of Burgundy</u>, daughter of <u>Eudes I, Duke of Burgundy</u>. [2] The <u>Gesta Normannorum Ducum</u> says that they had five children, three sons and two daughters. Europäische Stammtafeln, however, shows eleven. [2] The five both agree on are:

- Guy II. He assumed the county of Ponthieu during his father Talvas' lifetime, but died in 1147 predeceasing his father.
- William, Count of Alençon.<sup>[2]</sup>
- John I, Count of Alençon, married Beatrix d'Anjou, daughter of Elias II, Count of Maine and Philippa, daughter of Rotrou III, Count of Perche.<sup>[2]</sup>
- Clemence married (abt. 1189) Juhel, son of Walter of Mayenne.
- Adela (aka Ela) married William de Warenne, 3rd Earl of Surrey.
   She married, secondly, Patrick of Salisbury.

### References

- 1. Kathleen Thompson, 'William Talvas, Count of Ponthieu, and the Politics of the Anglo-Norman Realm', *England and Normandy in the Middle Ages*, ed. David Bates, Ann Curry (Hambledon Press, London, 1994), p. 170
- Detlev Schwennicke, <u>Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten</u>, Neue Folge, Band III Teilband 4, Das Feudale Frankreich und Sien Einfluss auf des Mittelalters (Marburg, Germany: Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, 1989), Tafel 638
- 3. G. E. Cokayne, The Complete Peerage, Vol. XI (The St. Catherine Press, London, 1949) p. 697
- K.S.B. Keats-Rohan, Domesday Descendants: A Prosopography of Persons Occurring in English Documents 1066-1166, Volume II Pipe Rolls to Cartae Baronum (Boydell & Brewer, UK & Rochester, NY, 2002), p. 310
- 5. G. E. Cokayne, The Complete Peerage, Vol. XI (The St. Catherine Press, London, 1949) pp. 693-4

### **Additional References**

■ The Gesta Normannorum Ducum of William of Jumièges, Orderic Vitalis, and Robert of Torigni, edited and translated by Elisabeth M. C. Van Houts, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1995.

#### **Notes**

a. Orderic Vitalis and Robert de Torigny both mentioned his nickname 'Talvas' but he is not known to have used it when granting or attesting his own charters, [G. E. Cokayne, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. XI (The St. Catherine Press, London, 1949) p. 697 n. (a)] but in a notification by the monks of St. Michel he was styled *Willelmus Tallevat comes Pontivi*. [Calendar of Documents Preserved in France, ed. J. Horace Round (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1899), no. 737]

William III, Count of Ponthieu  House of Bellême  Born: <u>c.</u> 1093 Died: 20 June 1172			
Preceded by Agnes	Count of Ponthie before 110 before 11	<u>u</u> )5 –	Succeeded by Guy II

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