

William III, Count of Ponthieu

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

William III of Ponthieu



Coat of Arms of the Counts of Ponthieu

Born	c. 1093
Died	1172
Noble family	House of Bellême
Spouse(s)	Helie of Burgundy
Father	Robert II of Bellême
Mother	Agnes of Ponthieu

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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 battle of Tinchebrai in 1106 commanding Duke Robert's rear guard and later, while serving as envoy for King Louis of France, he was arrested by Henry I and imprisoned for life.^[5] 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.^[3] In 1135 Henry I again confiscated all his Norman lands to which William responded by joining count Geoffrey of Anjou in his invasion of Normandy after Henry I's death^[3]

Family

He married, abt. 1115, Helie of Burgundy, daughter of Eudes I, Duke of Burgundy.^[2] The *Gesta Normannorum Ducum* 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.^[2]
- William, Count of Alençon.^[2]
- 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.^[2]
- Clemence married (abt. 1189) Juhel, son of Walter of Mayenne.^[2]
- Adela (aka Ela) married William de Warenne, 3rd Earl of Surrey.^[2] 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
2. Detlev Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, 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
4. 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: c. 1093 Died: 20 June 1172		
Preceded by <u>Agnes</u>	<u>Count of Ponthieu</u> before 1105 – before 1129	Succeeded by <u>Guy II</u>

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