



NEWSLETTER 26

August 2016

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Wood

Contact details: hughwood39@gmail.com; 01584 876901; 38 Charlton Rise, Ludlow SY8 1ND

BOOK NOW - AUTUMN SYMPOSIUM IN LUDLOW - SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER - DETAILS BELOW

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Books

Fran Norton's new book - *The Twisted Legacy of Maud de Braose* [link](#)

NEW MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

William Barnes, Kington, Herefordshire UK

Naomi Beal, Calne, Wiltshire UK

Sara Hanna-Black, Winchester, Hampshire UK

Edward Buchan, Kington Langley, Chippenham, Wiltshire UK

Stephen Chanko, Vienna, Austria

John Cherry, Bitterley, Ludlow, Shropshire UK

Lynnette Eldredge, Sequim, Washington, USA

Judith Field, Potomac, Maryland USA

Charles Gunter, Little Wenlock, Shropshire UK

Pauline Harrison Pogmore, Sheffield, South Yorkshire UK

Christine Holmes, Barnsley, South Yorkshire UK

Elizabeth Mckay, Oldham UK

Melissa Julian-Jones, Newport, Wales UK

Paul & Stephenie Ovrom, Des Moines, Iowa, USA

Patricia Potheary, Kingsland, Herefordshire UK

And a special welcome
to
Charlotte Hua
from Shanghai
our first member from
China



Jean de Russett, Leominster, Herefordshire UK
Lynn Russell, Knowbury, Shropshire UK
Gareth Wardell, Carmarthen, Wales UK
Peter Whitehouse, Lingen, Herefordshire UK

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 8th & Friday 9th September 2016 - An Opportunity to visit the Belltower of St James's church in Wigmore
Organised by St James's, Wigmore as part of the *Challenge 500* project, there will be free tours at 4pm & 5pm on both days. For more details [click here](#)

Saturday 10th September 2016 - Lecture on 'The Mortimers of Wigmore' by Philip Hume

Organised by the Worcestershire Branch of the Richard III Society. 2.00pm in Holy Innocents Community Hall, Kidderminster DY11 7BD. Small charge for attendance.



Wigmore Castle

Mortimer History Society
AUTUMN SYMPOSIUM
Saturday 1st October 2016
In 'Oscars' at Ludlow Assembly Rooms
Members £10; Non-Members £13



John Dudley, President of the Council of the Marches

Link to: [Booking, location and parking information](#)

PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

- 9.30 **Registration**, Coffee and a chance to inspect the Ludlow Medieval Heraldic Roll
- 10.00 **Wigmore Castle: How to Re-Create a Ruin**
Dr Carol Davidson Cragoe
 Unlike most medieval castles of its size, Wigmore has never been properly excavated. In the 1990s a decision was made to preserve it as a 'romantic ruin' with only a few small excavations undertaken to help stabilise the structure. This paper sets out the history of the castle and explores how the process of preparing a new reconstruction of the site in 2007-8 led to a greater understanding of how the castle must have worked.
Carol Davidson Cragoe is a well-respected architectural historian associated with Birkbeck College, London. She has worked on the Victorian County Histories and is the author of several books including 'How to Read Buildings'.
- 10.50 **The Last of the Mortimer Stars - A Woman**
John Grove
 Mortimer women are often overlooked by history. After 30 years of studying the Mortimers, John has recently discovered someone who is, for him, a new Mortimer lady of real distinction.
John Grove founded the Mortimer History Society in 2009. His favourite castle is Usk and favourite writer Marcus Aurelius. Newly married to Zsuzsa, he is also interested in Hungarian history and in the role of women in medieval society.
- 11.30 **Coffee, tea etc**
- 11.50 **Resistance to Conquest: Eastern Wales in the 13th Century**
Dr David Stephenson (University of Bangor)
 In the twelfth century, eastern Wales had seen intervention and conquest by Anglo-Norman Marcher lords and their followers. The thirteenth century saw increasing resistance to conquest amongst the Welsh communities of the March. But who were the conquerors? The answer to that question sheds new light on a momentous and mysterious death.....
Dr David Stephenson, a former Bowra Senior Research Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, is Honorary Research Fellow in the School of History, Welsh History and Archaeology, Bangor University. His many publications include 'Political Power in Medieval Gwynedd' (2014) and 'Medieval Powys: Kingdom, Principality and Lordships 1132-1293' (2016).
- 12.40 **The Ludlow Castle Medieval Heraldic Roll**
Hugh Wood
 We only became aware of this important heraldic roll in 2015. Though only 4 inches wide, it is 15 feet long. Dating from around 1574, it displays the arms of eleven owners of the castle, 9 Presidents of the Council of the Marches and 22 members of the Council in 1570. The roll is for sale.....!
Hugh Wood is the Membership Secretary of MHS, responsible also for the website and newsletters. His main interests are heraldry, the Mortimers and St Laurence's church in Ludlow.

1.10 **Lunch**
Make your own arrangements but leave time to study the medieval roll.

2.30 **Family Recognition? Heraldry on Medieval Metalwork**
John Cherry
Heraldry was used to decorate and to indicate ownership of horse harness, caskets, vessels, and swords. Commencing with a casket once connected with Isabella of France, wife of Edward II, this talk will show heraldry displayed on metalwork in the British Museum, and also show heraldry and badges belonging to families in the West Midlands and the Marches. It will end with some heraldry found locally, including an example of the Mortimer arms.
John Cherry worked in the British Museum for 40 years on medieval objects and is particularly interested in medieval badges and heraldry. He now lives near Ludlow, and has published on Medieval Decorative Art, Medieval Goldsmiths, and Seals and Seal-matrices. He is Chair of the Ludlow Heraldic Roll Group.

3.20 **The Medieval English Longbowman**
Jason O'Keefe
He was called by the Victorians, the medieval English Longman. This talk will take a look at the development, the power and the accuracy of the bow.
Jason O'Keefe is Chair of the Mortimer History Society. He has been a re-enactor and longbow archer for just over 30 years with a keen interest in all things medieval.

4.00 **Conclusion**

Link to: [Booking, location and parking information](#)

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RECENT EVENTS AND OTHER NEWS

The Spring Conference - 14th May 2016

About 65 people attended our Spring conference this year which was entitled *Sport, Culture and Intrigue: Glimpses into Medieval Life*. Of specific interest to members was Emma Cavell's lecture on the role of Maud Mortimer (wife of Roger Mortimer (d1282)) and her involvement in the ongoing conflict with Llewelyn ap Gruffydd. A report on this talk is included later in this newsletter. We also heard lectures on tournaments and on life of the gentry manor house, together with a talk and demonstration of medieval dancing, which involved the audience. Tim Hoverd gave an excellent lecture on medieval deer parks and then led a most interesting tour of Moccas deer park in Herefordshire.



Getting involved in medieval dance with Passamezzo Early Dance

On the Trail of the Mortimers



John Challis

On 12th May we launched *On the Trail of the Mortimers*. Written by our Secretary, Philip Hume, it describes 17 locations in the Middle Marches associated with the Mortimers of Wigmore and links them to the history of the family. The evening was well attended and John Challis gave an entertaining talk to welcome the new publication. Since the launch the book has sold incredibly well - with at least 500 copies already purchased. We have received extremely positive feedback with many people commenting that they enjoyed reading it, finding it very accessible in helping them to understand the history of the Mortimers and their impact locally and nationally, and really liking the way in which the book links the history and the locations. We are also aware that the book has inspired more people to visit some of the less well-known locations associated with the Mortimers, such as the delightful church of St Giles, Pipe Aston and also St Georges, Orleton which contains the fascinating stone carved heads. Several people have joined the Society after reading the book.

It costs just £7.50 and contains a quiz and I-Spy for children. If you haven't yet bought your copy just email trail@mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk

Schools Project

In the last newsletter we reported in detail on the work that members of the Society had been doing with 8 local schools to develop a curriculum programme on the Mortimers and medieval life. During the summer term the schools taught all the units that had been developed and we have had fantastic feedback on how well it has been received - one Headteacher commented that we are 'hooked on the Mortimers'. The highlight of the programme was the Living History Day at Ludlow Castle when 300 children from all 8 schools experienced aspects of medieval life. The weather was perfect and the children rotated around six different activities. At lunchtime a mounted knight arrived to demand the release of Sir Hugh Mortimer, who was imprisoned in the castle. We are meeting with all the schools in September to review the programme and to decide on the next step - but all the indications are that the schools want to repeat it next year.



MHS Summer Lecture - 16th June 2016

Prof. Chris Given-Wilson of the University of St Andrews gave a most interesting lecture to a packed audience in Ludlow Castle, entitled *The Mortimers and the English Crown in the 14th & early 15th centuries*.

Mortimer Trail Field Trip - 16th July 2016

Philip Hume, the author of *On the Trail of the Mortimers* led an enthusiastic group of 23 people around some of the less well-known sites in Herefordshire associated with the Mortimers of Wigmore. The tour included the castle and old church at Richard's Castle; the church at Orleton; the motte and bailey at Shobdon and 'Shobdon Arches', all that remains of Shobdon Priory and finally the Norman church and motte or 'tump' at Pipe Aston.

The MHS Essay Prize

In the last newsletter we reported on the launch of the Mortimer History Society Essay Prize. The closing date is not until December so it is too soon to know how many entries we'll receive. The early signs are very promising, however. When we sent information about the prize to all UK universities we received a number of supportive responses from professors and lecturers warmly welcoming what they saw as an important initiative and saying that they would be encouraging students to enter. With 4 months still to go to the submission date, we have now received our first essay and are we are hoping that this will be followed by a good number of others.

The Ludlow Castle Medieval Heraldic Roll

This roll was created around 1574 on the orders of Sir Henry Sidney, Lord President of the Council of Wales and the Marches. Since the last newsletter, a Ludlow Castle Heraldic Roll Group has been set up to raise money to purchase the roll and arrange for its preservation and display. Of the 9 initial members of the group, 6 are members of MHS including all three of the officers of the group. As the roll is very fragile the plan is to have facsimile copies made, one for permanent display and another to take around to schools and other places. The roll is primarily of interest to MHS members because of the inclusion of the Mortimer coat of arms. We plan to launch an appeal in the autumn and hope that MHS members will support it.



Part of the Ludlow Castle Heraldic Roll showing some of the members of the Council of the Marches in 1570

Lecture on Prince Arthur - 11th August 2016

Dr Sean Cunningham of the National Archives has recently published an important biography of Prince Arthur entitled *Prince Arthur: the Tudor king who never was*. About 60 people attended a lecture by Sean, held in St Laurence's church, Ludlow and organised by MHS in association with the Ludlow Palmers and the Ludlow Historical Research Group. Sean's title was *Prince Arthur: Ludlow, the Marches and the Training of the First Tudor Prince of Wales*. He presented a vivid picture of a young man seen by his father, Henry VII, as the great hope of the nation, after the disruptive Wars of the Roses. He was kept well away from the royal court from an early age, presiding over his own establishment in Ludlow and was educated and trained to be a king in the mould of the legendary king Arthur. His untimely death at 15, was seen as an unprecedented disaster. [Return](#)

INTELLIGENCE & INTRIGUE IN THE MARCH OF WALES - MAUD MORTIMER & THE FALL OF LLEWELYN AP GRUFFYDD

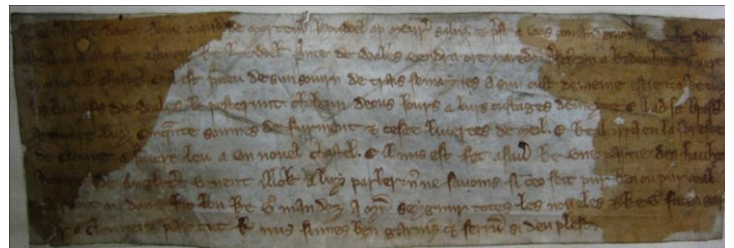
A report by Stella Mason on the lecture given by Dr Emma Cavell of Swansea University at our Spring Conference.



Dr Emma Cavell

Dr Emma Cavell's presentation to the Mortimer History Society Spring Conference examined the actions of Maud Mortimer in relation to events between 1265, 1274 and 1282, including the deaths of Simon de Montfort and Llywelyn ap Gruffydd. Maud was the wife of Roger Mortimer (III) d. 1282 and an heiress in her own right bringing de Braose, Marshall and Brewer lands into the Mortimer fold. Dr Emma Cavell is a research assistant in the department of History & Classics at the University of Swansea and team member of the AHRC-funded project *Women negotiating the boundaries of Justice: Britain and Ireland c.1100-c.1750*. Dr Cavell proposed that there was enough documentary evidence to show that Maud played a key role in supporting Mortimer and English authority along the Welsh March and further into Wales.

Central to her proposal was a letter to Maud Mortimer, written around March 1274 by Hywel ap Meurig, an informant for the Mortimers and others in the central March. Hywel gives Maud news of Llywelyn's movements and informs her that he was coming into Cydwain to see his new castle (Dolforwyn) and would be moving into Clun forest to select a site for another new castle. He tells Maud to put the castle at Clun in readiness and to convey this information to Roger immediately. Another letter of 1274 from Roger to Robert Burnell, Archdeacon of York, later Chancellor of England, suggests that Maud acted on Hywel's advice. Roger passed on the information and probably enclosed Hywel's letter as both pieces of correspondence ended up in the papers of the Royal Chancery, now in the National Archives.



Hywel ap Meurig's letter to Maud Mortimer



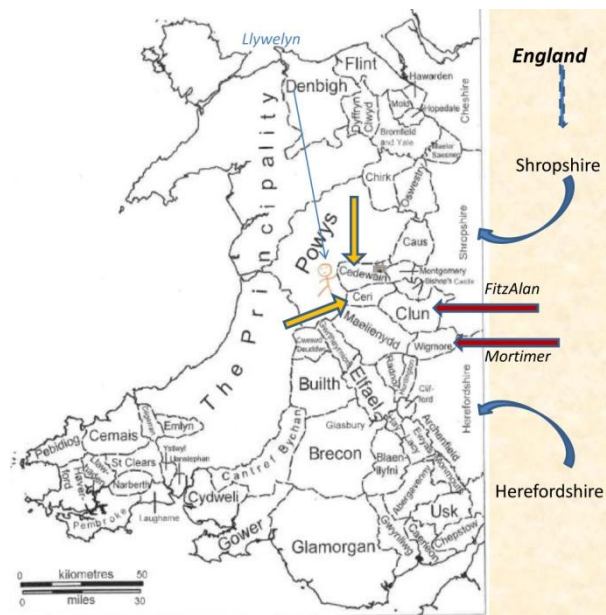
Dolforwyn Castle near Welshpool

MHS members who visited the imposing Dolforwyn Castle last year will know that it had a good strategic position from where Llywelyn could threaten Gruffudd ap Gwenwynwyn in southern Powys, as well as the Mortimers. Hywel's letter made it clear that Llywelyn intended to enter Clun territory. Clun was held by the FitzAlans, Isabel FitzAlan was the daughter of Maud and Roger. Her husband John had died in 1272 when their son was only five years old. Roger worked to ensure his daughter's dower rights were protected so it is not surprising that Maud may have been at Clun Castle in spring 1274, or was requested to take charge of the defence of the castle in Roger's absence.

While Maud was directly involved in the events of 1274, it is clear that she was also prominent during the Barons' War and the activity of Simon de Montfort. Her husband was instrumental in the escape of the Lord Edward who rode straight to Wigmore Castle where Maud was in charge. In spring and summer of 1264 Simon de Montfort's two sons, allied with Llywelyn, led violent attacks on Radnor and Wigmore. Radnor was Maud's own hereditary lordship and she may have received personal abuse or humiliation at the hands of the de Montforts. Why else would Roger have made a point of sending her Simon de Montfort's head decorated by his testicles after he was killed at the Battle of Evesham in 1265? Politics had become personal for Maud and her involvement was recognised by Henry III who gave her some of the forfeited de Montfort lands.

What was the outcome in 1274? As Llywelyn pushed eastwards Edward I and the Marcher lords moved to stop his advance during wars of 1276/7. Dolforwyn Castle was successfully besieged and then allocated to Roger Mortimer. Gruffudd ap Gwenwynwyn in southern Powys abandoned Llywelyn and was driven out of his lordship but later restored by the English forces. His wife, Hawise Lestrange was also an heiress who was determined to bring down Llywelyn. Her brother Roger Lestrange became leader of the forces in the central March, on the death of Roger Mortimer in October 1282.

What of Llywelyn? Dr Cavell suggested that both Maud Mortimer and Hawise Lestrange helped in the conspiracy by keeping documents and passing on information, through their family and spy networks, eventually leading to Llywelyn's death.



Monument to Llewelyn at Cilmeri near Builth Wells

When Llywelyn arrived at Builth in December 1282 he may have been met by Hawise's brother, husband and sons and Maud's two sons. Although there is little documentary evidence for their involvement, as they were not militarily active, the position of trust they held through their family alliances along the March, made them vital to such enterprises.

While Maud Mortimer was the main protagonist, Dr Cavell introduced other important noblewomen including Isabel FitzAlan and Hawise Lestrange. These noblewomen did not sit back, but as heiresses, wives and mothers actively participated in the managing and protecting of their own territorial interests as well as those of their family.

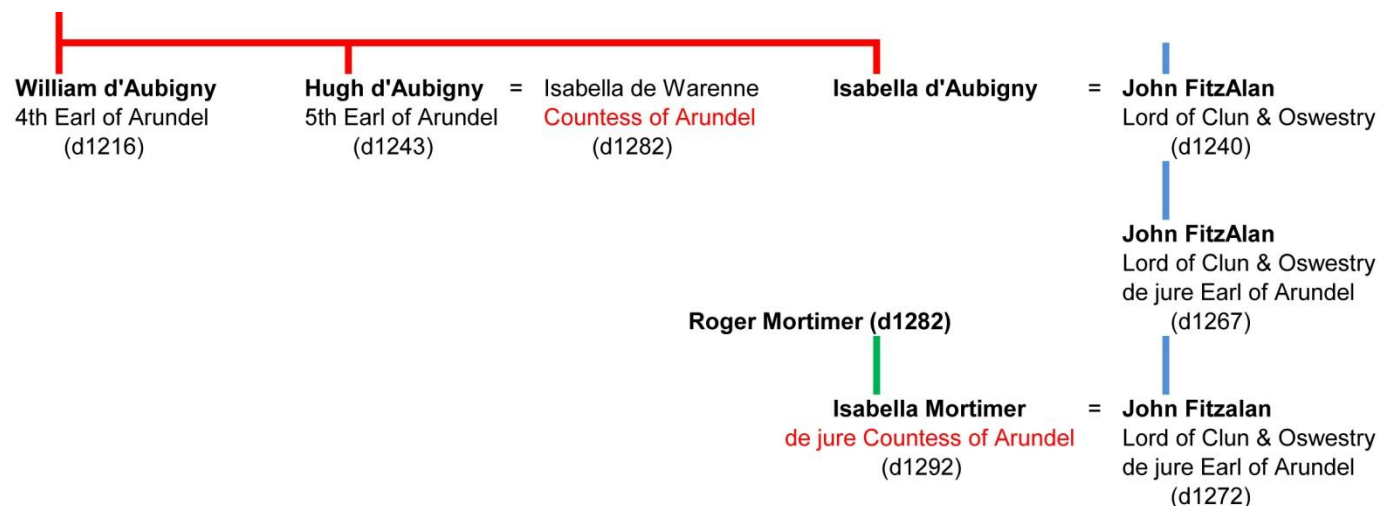
Stella Mason

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ISABELLA MORTIMER - LADY OF CLUN & OSWESTRY

In this paper, Fran Norton reports on recent research by Dr. Emma Cavell. Emma has pointed out that, although Isabella Mortimer was subsequently deemed to have been Countess of Arundel, references to that title during her lifetime always referred to the dowager Countess, Isabella d'Aubigny. It was a case of too many Isabellas. The complicated story of the ancient earldom of Arundel is related in the article by Peter Crocker which follows this one.

Isabella Mortimer, daughter of Sir Roger Mortimer [d:1282], was married to John FitzAlan of Oswestry and Clun *de jure* Earl of Arundel. Although, invariably, John FitzAlan is given the title of Earl of Arundel, recent research by Dr Emma Cavell of the Department of History and Classics at Swansea University, has discovered this was not the case during his lifetime and therefore the title of Countess was never held by Isabella.



The confusion of the title lies with John's grandfather, also named John FitzAlan, who had married Isabel d'Aubigny, the sister of the last two d'Aubigny, Earls of Arundel, [brothers William and Hugh] respectively. As a result of John's marriage his descendants acquired the right to the castle of Arundel and its title. However, the last d'Aubigny Earl left a widow, Isabella de Warenne, who lived until 1282, some thirty nine years after her husband's death and held the title of Countess throughout her long widowhood and *this* is the Isabella referred to in all the primary source material.

Isabella Mortimer is invariably recorded as marrying three times; Dr Cavell has untangled the true facts which show Isabella actually married only twice. In 1272, her first husband John FitzAlan died; he was in his mid twenties, leaving her a young widow, with their two children, Richard, and Maud. It is reputed that Isabella Mortimer married Ralph d'Arden in the year following John's death, but Dr Cavell has disproved this, discovering that, although Ralph *did* marry an Isabella, the widow of John FitzAlan, it was not Isabella Mortimer. His new wife was, in fact, the widow of a John FitzAlan of Wolverton. Easy to see why the persistent historical error has been carried forward through the ages. The truth is that Isabella Mortimer remained a widow for thirteen years after the death of John FitzAlan.

Another incorrect *fact* surrounding Isabella is regarding her second marriage to Robert Harstang in 1285, which states she did so without licence from the king, incurring royal displeasure. Dr. Cavell's research has revealed that Isabella's father, Sir Roger Mortimer [d:1282], had in fact purchased the licence from Henry III soon after her first husband's death; hence the initial confusion. It looks as though Isabella and her family were safeguarding against any unsatisfactory match and allowing her more control over her own future and that of her son Richard who became ward of his maternal grandsire, Sir Roger Mortimer.

Isabella held the titles of Lady of Oswestry and Clun and played an important role during her years of widowhood by supporting her father and subsequently her brother Edmund in the defence of the Welsh Marches. She improved defences at Oswestry Castle and maintained forces and ensured that vital reinforcements and supplies were available to the troops. Isabella lived to see her son gain the title of Earl of Arundel.

Lady Isabella died in 1292, and was buried at Haughmond Abbey. The FitzAlan family are closely associated with the abbey, which lies on the B5062 near Shrewsbury, and they donated lands and money to the Augustinian Order for its support over many years. Richard FitzAlan, Earl of Arundel, who died in 1302, is buried near his mother. His wife, Alice de Saluzzo also died in the same year as his mother.



FitzAlan graves at Haughmond Abbey in Shropshire, including that of Isabella Mortimer

Fran Norton

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THE EARLDOM OF ARUNDEL

The earldom of Arundel, now held by the Duke of Norfolk, is the oldest earldom still in existence in this country. As suggested in the previous article on Isabella Mortimer, it's history is complicated and obscure. In this article Peter Crocker untangles the knot and tells the story of this fascinating title.

Earl was the only heritable title in England before 1337. Medieval kings restricted the title to a very tiny elite amongst the nobility, so much so that in 1300 there were only nine of them. They were the most visible and influential members of the magnate group whose great power derived from their vast estates which generated huge incomes. Spencer likened them to the billionaires of today.



Arundel Castle today

One of the many titles held by the present Duke of Norfolk is the Earldom of Arundel which came into the ducal family in the 17th century. The title, which is the oldest extant hereditary title in England, has an interesting history. By the 15th century, peerages had become personal and hereditary, but the earldom of Arundel was deemed to be a 'peerage by tenure', belonging to whoever owned the castle of Arundel in Sussex.

The title can be traced back to the reign of King Stephen (1135-54). William d'Aubigny (d. 1176) acquired the 'castle and honour of Arundel' when he married, c. 1139, the Queen Dowager, widow of King Henry I. William's elevation to the earldom came later.

Hugh, the fifth and last d'Aubigny Earl of Arundel, died without issue in 1243 but his widow survived him by forty years. His large estates were divided between his four sisters and coheirs, or their issue. Hugh's second sister, Isabel, was married to John FitzAlan (d. 1240), feudal lord of Clun and Oswestry in Shropshire. Their son, another John FitzAlan (d. 1267) was awarded the castle and lordship of Arundel in right of his deceased mother. His son, yet another John FitzAlan (d.1272) was married to Isabel, daughter of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore (d. 1282). Neither of these Johns ever appear to have been known as Earl of Arundel. Isabel and John's son Richard (d. 1302) was, however, witnessing charters as 'Richard Arundel, earl of Arundel', soon after coming of age. This could hardly have happened without some formal recognition.



The arms of d'Aubigny, subsequently adopted by the Fitzalans - gules a lion rampant or, armed and langued azure

The Earldom of Arundel descended in the direct male line from John Fitzalan (d. 1267) until the death of the seventh earl Thomas FitzAlan without issue in 1415. The descent, however, had not been without incident, which reflected the hazards and vicissitudes of aristocratic life in the Middle Ages. Edmund the fourth Earl (executed 1326) and Richard the sixth (executed 1397) were attainted and their estates and honours forfeited. These were subsequently restored to their heirs after a short interval of a few years.

On his death in 1415 Thomas was succeeded as eighth earl by his distant cousin and heir male, John FitzAlan (d. 1421), who had inherited the castle and honour of Arundel under an entail of 1349/50. He was descended from a younger son of the fifth earl his great grandfather. John's son and heir, another John, was summoned to parliament by writ in 1429 as 'John Arundel of Arundel, knight' whereby he is held to have become Lord Arundel. In 1433 he petitioned King Henry VI 'to be ... considered as Earl of Arundel, a dignity or name united and annexed to the Castle and Lordship of Arundel, for time whereof memory of man was not to the contrary', a claim admitted by the Crown. The words 'memory of man' must be read in their strict legal sense as meaning 'since the reign of Richard I'. It meant that anyone who had had tenure of the castle and lordship of Arundel since 1189 had been *de jure* (by law) Earl of Arundel. The comment on these proceedings in the House of Lords' Reports (1829) was that they 'ought to be considered an anomaly influenced by political views', but the nature of these views was not specified. Notwithstanding the view of the committee, the effect of the 1433 decision had been retrospectively to make John FitzAlan (d.1267) and John FitzAlan (d.1272) Earls of Arundel.



Henry FitzAlan (d1580) the last FitzAlan Earl of Arundel

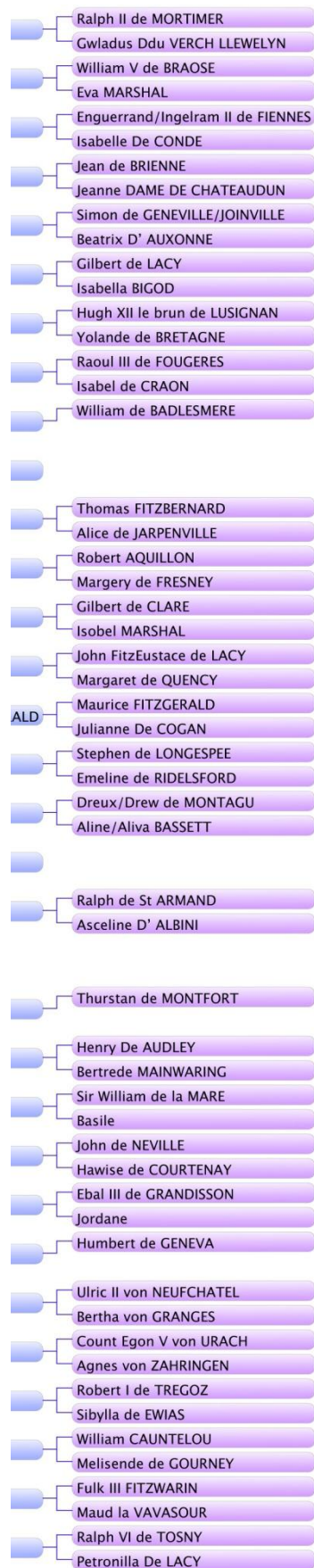
The Earldom of Arundel continued in the FitzAlan family until the death in 1580 of Henry the fourteenth Earl in 1580, when the male line, owners of Arundel Castle for over 300 years, became extinct. Henry's daughter, Mary (who died 1557 in childbirth aged 17) and, in her issue, sole heir to her father, married Thomas Howard, fourth Duke of Norfolk who was attainted and beheaded in 1572. In 1580 Philip Howard, the son of Thomas and Mary, succeeded his maternal grandfather as Earl of Arundel. Like his father, Philip was attainted and forfeited his honours in 1589. The earldom was restored to his only son Thomas Howard in 1604. In 1627 he obtained an Act of Parliament 'For the annexing of the Castle ... and lordship of Arundel, etc, with the titles and dignities of the Baronies of FitzAlan, Clun and Oswestry and Maltravers ... to the same title, name and dignity of Earl of Arundel' with various remainders. Thomas's grandson, also Thomas, Earl of Arundel, etc, was restored to the dukedom of Norfolk in 1660 which had been forfeited by his great great grandfather in 1572. The Earldom of Arundel, and the other honours entailed with it in 1627 merged therefore with the Dukedom of Norfolk in 1660, and have remained so merged, being held today by the eighteenth Duke.

Sources

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THE ANCESTORS OF EDMUND MORTIMER, 3rd EARL OF MARCH

An Australian member, Shirley Keating, has gone back six generations and identified almost all of the ancestors of the 3rd Earl of March going back to the time of Ralph Mortimer (d1246). Here she comments on the results of her researches. It is possible to show here only a section of her table but you can view the full table by [clicking here](#)



Some of the 64 great great great grandparents of the 3rd Earl of March

The Mortimers have been written about extensively. However another way of looking at the family is a birdseye view of the ancestors of one member of the family, say Edmund II 1352-1381. Going back six generations there are 126 ancestors and almost of all of these can be identified, as the table shows.

There is the Welsh connection: Gwladus Ddu daughter of Llewelyn the Great 1173-1240 of the house of Gwynedd. She was said to be dark-eyed and good looking and she married Ralph Mortimer in 1230, her first husband, Reynold de Briouse having died in 1228. Perhaps it was a love match.

Included in the list are, of course, the more important Marcher families of French-Norman extraction, namely Braose, Marshal, Lacy, Bigod, Clare, FitzGerald, Ewias, Tregoz FitzWarin and Montfort. They generally came to England as younger sons or lower level warriors, knights or gentry but rose through the ranks by administrative ability, military prowess and good marriages.

William V Braose 1204-1230 Marcher Lord of Brecon, Builth and Abergavenny married Eva Marshal and thus acquired Cilgerran Castle. He had a wandering eye. When Llewelyn the Great learned that William was having a clandestine relationship with his wife he hanged him at St Clears in public. However Llewelyn did not let this stop the intended marriage of his son to William's daughter Isabel and more surprisingly the Braose family agreed.

Eva and Isobel Marshal were younger daughters and heiresses of William Marshall 1147-1219 who was said to be the 'Greatest Knight'. William was a younger son of the king's Marshall who looked after the king's horses, the training of squires, moving the household and internal policing of the court. As a child, William was held hostage by King Stephen. He became a great tourney fighter and made money from ransoms. Later under King Henry II he mentored the King's eldest son Henry. Then he served kings Richard and John to whom he stayed loyal. He married Isabel de Clare heiress of Strongbow and became Earl of Pembroke. Finally he was Regent for young King Henry III until his death in 1219.

Gilbert de Lacy 1210-1230 of Ewyas Lacy, Herefordshire predeceased his father. So his daughters Maud and Margaret were the sole heirs of their grandfather Walter. Through the Lacys and Genevilles, the Mortimers became very significant Irish landowners and the Lords of Trim Castle in Meath.

John FitzEustace de Lacy 1192-1240 8th Baron Halton was not really a de Lacy, but sometime after 1194 he and his father took the name de Lacy. He became Earl of Lincoln because his wife Margaret de Quency was the daughter of Hawise de Guernon de Meschines 1181-1242 Countess of Lincoln. Hawise the younger sister and co-heiress of her brother Ranulf, Earl of Chester resigned her earldom of Lincoln and requested it be transferred to her son-in-law John FitzEustace.

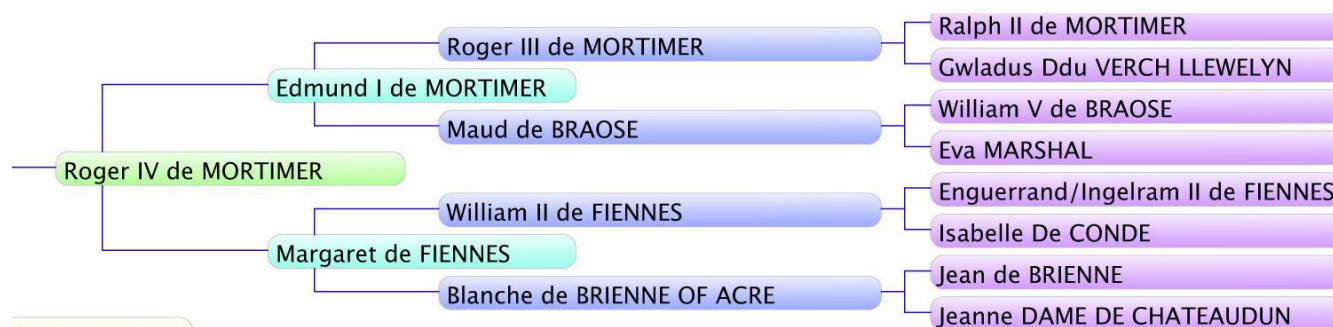
The Bigods were East Anglian Earls of Norfolk but by the marriage of Hugh II 1182-1225 to Maud the eldest daughter of William Marshal, they became Marshals of England and Earls of Pembroke. In 1173 Hugh's father Roger II had rebelled with the young King Henry, lost his estates and died in exile. Hugh redeemed the family fortunes and obtained permission to rebuild Framlingham Castle's walls, which still stand. In 1215 Hugh was a Magna Carta Surety baron.

Gilbert de Clare 1180-1230 was Earl of Clare, Hertford and Gloucester. Both Gilbert and his father were Magna Carta Surety barons in 1215. He fought for Louis the Dauphin under the Baronial banner and was taken prisoner by William Marshal, yet he later married William's daughter Isobel.

The Geraldines were a numerous Marcher family, some of whom went to Ireland and later became Irish Earls. Maurice FitzGerald 1190-1257 second Baron Offaly fought for the King in Poitou and Gascony and was appointed Justiciar of Ireland from 1232 until 1245. It seems he did a very good job, as they say the King regretted replacing him by John FitzGeoffrey. The family castle was at Carew, in Pembrokeshire.

Sibylla de Ewyas 1178-1236 was heiress of Ewyas Harold in Herefordshire which the family had held for several generations. By her marriage it went to the Tregoz family who became Barons of Ewyas Harold. In 1265 Robert II the son of Robert I was killed at the Battle of Evesham fighting for the King against Simon de Montfort.

The story of the outlaw Fulk FitzWarin III 1177-1257 was the subject of a romantic legend passed down by the troubadours. He is said to have had an argument with King John, renounced his allegiance and travelled to the continent. After a few years he and his brothers came back to England as outlaws. Eventually Fulk was reconciled to the King as his services were needed. It is said his friends at court lobbied strongly for him, enabling him to regain Whittington Castle in 1204. Fulk III and Maud la Vavasour were a real love match. Fulk wanted to marry Maud but she was an heiress and her family married her off to the older Theobald FitzWalter ancestor of the Butler family. After they had several children he died and in 1207 Fulk and Maud married and she had several more children.



The Montforts built Beaudesert Castle in Worcestershire on land granted to them by the Earl of Warwick. They originated from Belgium. Piers I 1215-1265 a Parliamentarian was closely associated with Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, though not related to him. Piers fought and died with Simon at Evesham.

A Royal connection occurred through Stephen Longespee younger son of the Earl of Salisbury and grandson of King Henry II and his mistress Ida de Tosny who later married Roger II Bigod. Stephen was at different times Seneschal of Gascony and Justiciar of Ireland.

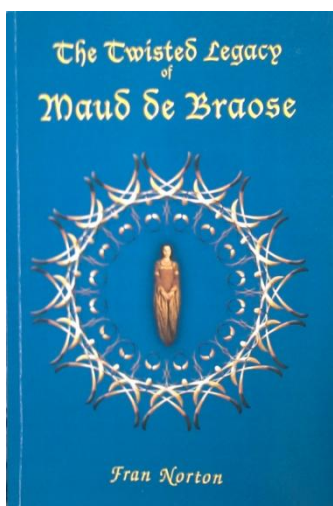
The Swiss provided some progenitors, namely the Grandissons , de Genevas and Neufchatels. Sir William Grandisson, a younger son, came to England, served Edmund, Earl of Lancaster competently and was given lands and an heiress to marry. He seems to have been very strong-minded and had a high opinion of himself as he had his lands siezed several times for misbehaviour and for not obeying commands. However he must have been a good soldier as the earl defended him. He fought for the King and was made Lord Grandisson in 1299.

Shirley Keating

Reminder - to view the complete 7-generations table of the 3rd Earl of March [click here](#)

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