

= Humphrey de Bohun , 3rd Earl of Hereford =

Humphrey (V) de Bohun (c . 1249 ? 31 December 1298) , 3rd Earl of Hereford and 2nd Earl of Essex , was an English nobleman known primarily for his opposition to King Edward I over the Confirmatio Cartarum . He was also an active participant in the Welsh Wars and maintained for several years a private feud with the earl of Gloucester . His father , Humphrey (V) de Bohun , fought on the side of the rebellious barons in the Barons ' War . When Humphrey (V) predeceased his father , Humphrey (VI) became heir to his grandfather , Humphrey (IV) . At Humphrey (IV) ' s death in 1275 , Humphrey (VI) inherited the earldoms of Hereford and Essex . He also inherited major possessions in the Welsh Marches from his mother , Eleanor de Braose .

Bohun 's spent most of his early career reconquering Marcher lands captured by Llywelyn ap Gruffudd during the Welsh war in England . This was finally accomplished through Edward I 's war in Wales in 1277 . Hereford also fought in Wales in 1282 ? 83 and 1294 ? 95 . At the same time he also had private feuds with other Marcher lords , and his conflict with Gilbert de Clare , Earl of Gloucester , eventually ended with the personal intervention of King Edward himself . Hereford 's final years were marked by the opposition he and Roger Bigod , Earl of Norfolk , mounted against the military and fiscal policy of Edward I. The conflict escalated to a point where civil war threatened , but was resolved when the war effort turned towards Scotland . The king signed the Confirmatio Cartarum ? a confirmation of Magna Carta ? and Bohun and Bigod agreed to serve on the Falkirk Campaign . Bohun died in 1298 , and was succeeded by his son , Humphrey de Bohun , 4th Earl of Hereford .

= = Family background and inheritance = =

Humphrey (VI) de Bohun was part of a line of Anglo @-@ Norman aristocrats going back to the Norman Conquest , most of whom carried the same name . His grandfather was Humphrey (IV) de Bohun , who had been part of the baronial opposition of Simon de Montfort , but later gone over to the royal side . He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Lewes in May 1264 , but was restored to favour after the royalist victory at the Battle of Evesham the next year . Humphrey (IV) ' s son , Humphrey (V) de Bohun , remained loyal to the baronial side throughout the Barons ' War , and was captured at Evesham on 4 August 1265 . In October that year Humphrey (V) died in captivity at Beeston Castle in Cheshire from injuries he had sustained in the battle .

Humphrey (V) had been excluded from succession as a result of his rebellion , but when Humphrey (IV) died in 1275 , Humphrey (VI) inherited the earldoms of Hereford and Essex . Humphrey (VI) had already served as deputy Constable of England under Humphrey (IV) . Humphrey (IV) had reserved the honour of Pleshey for his younger son Henry , but the remainder of his lands went to Humphrey (VI) . The inheritance Humphrey (VI) received ? in addition to land in Essex and Wiltshire from Humphrey (IV) ? also consisted of significant holdings in the Welsh Marches from his mother . His mother Eleanor was a daughter and coheir of William de Braose and his wife Eva Marshal , who in turn was the daughter and coheir of William Marshal , regent to Henry III .

Since Humphrey (VI) was only sixteen years old at the time of his father 's death , the Braose lands were taken into the king 's custody until 1270 . Part of this inheritance , the Marcher lordship of Brecon , was in the meanwhile given to the custody of Gilbert de Clare , Earl of Hertford . Humphrey technically regained his lordship from Clare in 1270 , but by this time these lands had effectively been taken over by the Welsh prince Llywelyn ap Gruffudd , who had taken advantage of the previous decade 's political chaos in England to extend his territory into the Marches .

He granted his brother Gilbert de Bohun all of their mother 's lands in Ireland and some land in England and Wales .

= = Welsh Wars = =

Over the next years , much of Hereford 's focus was on reconquering his lost lands in the Marches ,

primarily through private warfare against Llywelyn . Henry III died in 1272 , while his son ? now Edward I ? was crusading ; Edward did not return until 1274 . Llywelyn refused to pay homage to the new king , partly because of the military actions of Bohun and other Marcher lords , which Llywelyn saw as violations of the Treaty of Montgomery . On 12 November 1276 , Hereford was present at a royal assembly where judgment was passed on Llewelyn , and in 1277 , Edward I declared war on the Welsh prince . Rebellion in his own Brecon lands delayed Hereford 's participation in the early days of the Welsh war . He managed , however , to both suppress the rebellion , and conquer lands further west . He then joined up with the royal army and served for a while in Anglesey , before returning to Brecon , where he received the surrender of certain Welsh lords . After the campaign was over , on 2 January 1278 , he received protection from King Edward to go on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain .

In 1282 , war with Wales broke out again ; this time it would not be simply a punitive campaign , but a full @-@ scale war of conquest . Initially , the king wanted to fight the war with paid forces , but the nobility insisted on the use of the feudal summons . To men like Hereford , this was preferable , because as part of a feudal army the participants would have both a stake in the war and a justifiable claim on conquered land . In the end , although the earls won , none of them were paid for the war effort . Hereford jealously guarded his authority as hereditary Constable of England , and protested vigorously when the Gilbert de Clare , Earl of Gloucester was appointed commander of the forces in South Wales . In the post war settlement , however , neither Hereford nor Gloucester received any significant rewards of land , the way several other magnates did . Hereford fought again in Wales , in the suppression of the rebellion of 1294 ? 95 , when he again had to pacify the territory of Brecon before joining the king in the north .

= = Private war in the Marches = =

Parallel with the Welsh Wars , Hereford was also struggling to assert his claims to lands in the Marches against other Marcher lords . In 1284 Edward I granted the hundred of Iscennen in Carmarthenshire to John Giffard . Hereford believed the land belonged to him by right of conquest , and started a campaign to win the lands back , but the king took Giffard 's side . Problems also arose with the earl of Gloucester . As Gloucester 's former ward , Hereford had to buy back his own right of marriage , but Gloucester claimed he had not received the full sum . There was also remaining resentment on Hereford 's part for his subordination to Gloucester in the 1282 ? 83 campaign . The conflict came to a head when Gloucester 's started construction of a castle at Morlais , which Hereford claimed was his land . In 1286 , the Crown ordered Gloucester to cease , but to no avail .

It had long been established Marcher custom to solve conflicts through private warfare . Hereford 's problem , however , was his relative weakness in the Marches , and now he was facing open conflict with two different enemies . He therefore decided to take the issue to the king instead , in a break with tradition . King Edward again ordered Gloucester to stop , but the earl ignored the order and initiated raids on Hereford 's lands . Hostilities continued and Hereford responded , until both earls were arrested and brought before the king . The real offense was not the private warfare in itself , but the fact that the earls had not respected the king 's injunction to cease . In the parliament of January 1292 , Gloucester was fined 10 @,@ 000 marks and Hereford 1 @,@ 000 . Gloucester 's liberty of Glamorgan was declared forfeit , and confiscated by the crown , as was Hereford 's of Brecon .

In the end the fines were never paid , and the lands were soon restored . Edward had nevertheless demonstrated an important point . After the conquest of Wales , the strategic position of the Marcher lordships was less vital to the English crown , and the liberty awarded to the Marcher lords could be curtailed . For Edward this was therefore a good opportunity to assert the royal prerogative , and to demonstrate that it extended also into the Marches of Wales .

= = Opposition to Edward I = =

In 1294 the French king declared the English duchy of Aquitaine forfeit , and war broke out between the two countries . Edward I embarked on a wide @-@ scale and costly project of building alliances with other princes on the Continent , and preparing an invasion . When the king , at the parliament of March 1297 in Salisbury , demanded military service from his earls , Roger Bigod , Earl of Norfolk , refused in his capacity of marshal of England . The argument was that the king 's subjects were not obliged to serve abroad if not in the company of the king , but Edward insisted on taking his army to Flanders while sending his earls to Gascony .

At the time of the Salisbury parliament , Hereford was accompanying two of the king 's daughters to Brabant , and could not be present . On his return , however , as Constable of England , he joined Bigod in July in refusing to perform feudal service . The two earls were joined in their opposition by the earls of Arundel and Warwick . The main reasons for the magnates ' defiance was the heavy burden of taxation caused by Edward 's continuous warfare in Wales , France and Scotland . In this they were also joined by Robert Winchelsey , the Archbishop of Canterbury , who was in the midst of an ongoing dispute with the king over clerical taxation . At one point Bohun and Bigod turned up in person at the Exchequer to protest a tax they claimed did not have the consent of the community of the realm . For Hereford there was also a personal element in the opposition to the king , after the humiliation and the affront to his liberties he had suffered over the dispute in the Marches . At a meeting just outside London , Bohun gave an impassioned speech objecting to the king 's abuse of power and demanding the restoration of ancient liberties . The grievances were summarised in a document known as the Remonstrances .

Neither party showed any inclination to back down , and the nation seemed on the brink of another civil war . Just as the conflict was coming to a head , however , external events intervened to settle it . In September 1297 , the English suffered a heavy defeat to the Scots at the Battle of Stirling Bridge . The Scottish victory exposed the north of England to Scottish raids led by William Wallace . The war with Scotland received wider support from the English magnates , now that their own homeland was threatened , than did the war in France to protect the king 's continental possessions . Edward abandoned his campaign in France and negotiated a truce with the French king . He agreed to confirm Magna Carta in the so @-@ called Confirmatio Cartarum (Confirmation of the Charters) . The earls consequently consented to serve with the king in Scotland , and Hereford was in the army that won a decisive victory over the Scots in the Battle of Falkirk in 1298 . Hereford , not satisfied that the king had upheld the charter , withdrew after the battle , forcing Edward to abandon the campaign .

= = Death and family = =

In 1275 Bohun married Maud de Fiennes , daughter of Enguerrand de Fiennes , chevalier , seigneur of Fiennes , by his 2nd wife , Isabel (kinswoman of Queen Eleanor of Provence) . She predeceased him , and was buried at Walden Priory in Essex . Hereford himself died at Pleshey Castle on 31 December 1298 , and was buried at Walden alongside his wife . They had one son Humphrey de Bohun , 4th Earl of Hereford , born around 1276 . The son was given possession of his father 's lands and titles on 16 February 1299 . The young Humphrey also inherited his father 's title of Constable of England .

A common theme in Humphrey de Bohun 's actions was his fierce protection of what he regarded as his feudal privileges . His career was marked by turbulence and political strife , particularly in the Marches of Wales , but eventually he left a legacy of consolidated possessions there . In 1297 , at the height of the conflict between Edward I and rebellious barons , the king had actively tried to undermine Hereford 's authority in the Marches , but failed due to the good relations the earl enjoyed with the local men .