

= Savaric FitzGeldewin =

Savaric fitzGeldewin (sometimes Savaric FitzGoldwin or Savaric de Bohun ; died 8 August 1205) was an Englishman who became Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury in England . Related to his predecessor as well as to the German Emperor Henry VI , he was elected bishop on the urging of his predecessor , who urged his election on the cathedral chapter of Bath . While bishop , Savaric spent many years attempting to annexe Glastonbury Abbey as part of his bishopric . Savaric also worked to secure the release of King Richard I of England from captivity , when the king was held by Emperor Henry VI .

= = Early life = =

Savaric 's date of birth is unknown . His father was Geldwin , who was a member of the Bohun family and was probably a second cousin of Reginald fitzJocelin , Bishop of Bath . Geldwin 's father was Savaric Fitzcana , who held Midhurst in Sussex . The elder Savaric 's wife was Muriel , who was a granddaughter of Humphrey de Bohun . The younger Savaric 's mother Estrangia was a Burgundian and related to the Holy Roman Emperor Henry VI . Savaric 's elder brother was Franco . Thus the younger Savaric was a cousin of Emperor Henry VI and also of Reginald fitzJocelin , his predecessor as Bishop of Bath .

Savaric first appears in the historical record in 1157 when he is named as a canon of Coutances Cathedral in Normandy . He then was archdeacon of Countances from 1162 to 1174 . He was Treasurer of Salisbury in 1174 and archdeacon of Northampton from 1175 to 1187 . The medieval chronicler Ralph Diceto says that a Savaric was appointed as Archdeacon of Canterbury , but whether this was the same Savaric is unclear . He incurred large debts to King Henry II of England , which caused the king to complain to Pope Urban III . During the years 1182 ? 1184 , Savaric was deprived of his archdeaconries , which may have been connected to the debt issue with the king .

= = Bishop = =

Savaric went with Henry 's son and successor King Richard I on crusade , and it was while they both were in Sicily that Savaric obtained his bishopric . In December 1191 he was elected Bishop of Bath . Savaric 's election was held under controversial conditions , for Savaric had obtained from Richard I letters allowing Savaric to be elected to the next available bishopric . When Savaric 's cousin Reginald was elected to Canterbury in 1191 , Reginald went to Bath and pressed the clergy there to select Savaric as Reginald 's successor . On the strength of the letters from Richard , the justiciar Walter de Coutances ratified the election of Savaric . The canons of Wells objected because they had not been consulted , but Savaric was ordained a priest on 19 September 1192 at Rome . He was consecrated bishop there on 20 September 1192 by the Bishop of Albano . He went on the Third Crusade with Richard .

When Richard was held for ransom in Germany while returning from crusade , Savaric met with his cousin the Emperor Henry VI in an attempt to secure Richard 's release . He remained in Germany throughout 1193 and continued to be involved in the negotiations , until he returned to England at the end of the year . Once Richard was released , Savaric was one of the hostages left behind in Germany to ensure the payment of the remainder of the ransom . It may have been while he was in Germany negotiating about Richard 's ransom that he was named imperial chancellor of Burgundy , but as he was not named by that title until 1197 , the exact date of his occupation of the office is unclear .

= = Controversy with Glastonbury = =

After his consecration , Savaric traded the city of Bath to the king in return for the monastery of Glastonbury . Savaric secured the support of Pope Celestine III for the takeover the abbey as the seat of his bishopric , replacing Bath . The plan was that Savaric would be bishop of Bath as well as

abbot of Glastonbury . In his support , Savaric obtained letters from various ecclesiastics , including the Archbishop of Canterbury , Hubert Walter , that claimed that this arrangement would settle longstanding disputes between the abbey and the bishops . The monks of Glastonbury objected to Savaric 's plan , and sent an appeal to Rome , which was dismissed in 1196 . But King Richard , no longer imprisoned in Germany , sided with the monks , and allowed them to elect an abbot , William Pica , in place of Savaric , who responded by excommunicating the new abbot . With the succession of John as king in place of his brother Richard in 1199 , Savaric managed to force his way into the monastery and set up his episcopal see within the abbey . The monks appealed to Innocent III , the new pope .

At first , Innocent took the side of the monks , and lifted Pica 's excommunication . While the newest appeal was taking place , Pica and a number of his supporters , who had traveled to Rome to appeal in person , died in Rome in 1200 , and some of the monks alleged this was by poison administered on the orders of Savaric . Meanwhile , Innocent had changed his mind , and reinstalled Savaric as abbot , ordering some English clergy to judge the specifics of the case , and allot the revenues of the abbey between Savaric and the monks . Savaric then attempted to secure more control over other monasteries in his diocese , but died before he could set the plans in motion .

= = Death and legacy = =

Savaric died at Civitavecchia or Siena on 8 August 1205 while visiting the papacy in Rome on business for Peter des Roches , Bishop @-@ elect of Winchester . He was there to support Roches election which had been contested . Roches also supported Savaric in his struggles with Glastonbury , loaning the bishop money and being appointed to a papal commission to deal with Savaric 's petitions , which went nowhere because Savaric died before the commission first met . He was buried at Bath .