

= William de Chesney (sheriff) =

William de Chesney (sometimes William of Norwich or William fitzRobert ; died 1174) was a medieval Anglo -@-@ Norman nobleman and sheriff . Son of landholder in Norfolk , William inherited after the death of his two elder brothers . He was the founder of Sibton Abbey , as well as a benefactor of other monasteries in England . In 1157 , Chesney acquired the honour of Blythburgh , and was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk during the 1150s and 1160s . On Chesney 's death in 1174 , he left three unmarried daughters as his heirs .

= = Early life = =

Chesney was the son of Robert fitzWalter and Sybil de Chesney , and a younger brother of John de Chesney . Sybil was the daughter of Ralph de Chesney . Robert fitzWalter was lord of Horsford in Norfolk , which was originally held by Walter de Caen , Robert 's father . The barony was assessed at 10 knight 's fees .

Roger was the eldest brother of William , but died childless during their father 's lifetime . The next son , John , inherited the family lands , but died around 1149 without children . William then inherited the lands . John and William had a sister called Margaret , who was the wife of Haimo de St Clair . Their father married a second time , and had a son named Simon by that marriage . William took his surname from his mother 's family , as did his half @-@ brother Simon , who was not related to the Chesney family except by marriage . Two further children of Robert 's , Elias and Peter , are known , but whether they were the children of the first marriage or the second is unclear . Chesney should be distinguished from another William de Chesney , who controlled the town of Oxford and its castle as well as the town of Deddington and its castle in the same time period .

= = Career = =

Chesney founded Sibton Abbey , and after his brother John 's death he confirmed the foundation of that Cistercian monastery , which was the only Cistercian house in Suffolk . Besides founding that monastery , he also gave lands or other gifts to Colne Priory , Essex , Thetford Priory , Castle Acre Priory , St John 's Abbey , Stoke @-@ by @-@ Clare Priory , and Blythburgh Priory .

Chesney acquired the barony of Blythburgh in Suffolk in 1157 . These lands were recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as being held by the king , and when Chesney was granted them they were assessed at one knight 's fee in feudal service . Besides Blythburgh , Chesney also acquired lands in Norfolk and Essex which he added to the family lands in Norfolk and Suffolk .

In 1153 or 1154 , Chesney was the recipient of the lordship of a hundred and a half in Norfolk , possibly in compensation for the loss of the manor of Mileham . Chesney likely lost Mileham to another noble family , the fitzAlans , as part of the settlement resulting from the Treaty of Wallingford which settled the civil war in England . Both William 's father Robert and his elder brother John had held these offices before him .

Chesney was Sheriff of Norfolk in the late 1140s and the 1150s , being recorded as holding that office in two documents ? one dated to between 1146 and 1149 and the other dated to between 1146 and 1153 . The same documents record him as holding the office of Sheriff of Suffolk at concurrent times . He held both offices again between 1156 and 1163 .

= = Death and legacy = =

Chesney died in 1174 , having had three daughters with his wife Gilla . Her ancestry is unknown , and it is possible that William married another time , to Aubrey de Poynings , because a Lewes Priory charter dated to around 1165 names a William de Chesney and Aubrey his wife , but it is not clear whether this charter is referring to William de Chesney the sheriff or to another William . William and Gilla 's daughters were Margaret , Clemence , and Sara , all of whom were unmarried at the time of their father 's death . Margaret married twice ? first to Hugh de Cressy and second to

Robert fitzRoger . Clemence married Jordan de Sackville , and Sara married Richard Engaine . Margaret inherited the majority of her father 's estates .

At his death , Chesney had outstanding debts , both to the king and to Jewish moneylenders . In 1214 , his daughter Margaret was exempted from repaying any of her father 's debts to those moneylenders by a royal grant .