

= William Pantulf =

William Pantulf ( died 16 April probably in 1112 ) was an Anglo @-@ Norman nobleman and Baron of Wem . He was born in Calvados , a region of Normandy , where his family had lived since around 1030 . Pantulf held lands in Shropshire following the Norman Conquest of England . A vassal of Roger of Montgomery , the Earl of Shrewsbury , Pantulf was accused of murdering Roger 's wife but proved his innocence of the charge by a trial by ordeal . When Roger 's son Robert of Belleme rebelled against King Henry I of England , Pantulf did not take part and sided with the king . Upon his death , which most likely occurred in 1112 , William 's eldest son Philip inherited his Norman lands , and his second son Robert received the English lands .

= = Background and family = =

Pantulf was from Noron in the Calvados region of Normandy . His family had lived there since at least around 1030 , as a charter of Jumièges Abbey shows the family as vassals of the House of Montgomery in the Montgomery lands near Sées . Pantulf 's mother was named Beatrice , and his sister was named Helwise , but his father 's name and other siblings are not known .

= = After the Conquest = =

After the Norman Conquest of England , Pantulf held lands in Shropshire from Earl Roger de Montgomery . The earl settled a number of his Norman vassals , including Pantulf , on his new lands in Sussex and Shropshire . Pantulf 's grants totalled eleven manors located in Hodnet Hundred . Pantulf 's lands in England were centered on Wem , and are considered a feudal barony , making Pantulf the first Baron of Wem .

Pantulf was present at the consecration of the church at Bec Abbey on 23 October 1077 , along with King William the Conqueror of England . Pantulf lost his lands temporarily because he was suspected of murdering Roger 's wife Mabel de Bellême , around 1077 . Pantulf came under suspicion because Mabel had seized a castle at Peray en Saonnais held by Pantulf . When he was accused of the murder , Pantulf was in southern Italy , which had also been conquered by Normans . Pantulf sought refuge at the Abbey of Saint @-@ Evroul in Normandy while he was under suspicion ; he and his family were under the protection of the abbot .

Pantulf regained his lands after he cleared himself of the charge , through the mechanism of a trial by ordeal . It is not clear why the ordeal was required , with the historian David Bates speculating that either the evidence of Pantulf 's involvement was not conclusive or that murder victim 's family demanded the ordeal because they suspected any evidence pointing to Pantulf 's innocence . By 1086 he held 29 manors in Shropshire , along with other lands in Staffordshire and Warwickshire . When Roger 's son Robert de Bellême became Earl of Shrewsbury in 1098 , Pantulf was once more deprived of those lands he held as a vassal of the Earl .

= = Role in rebellion = =

In 1102 Robert de Bellême rebelled against King Henry I of England . Although Pantulf was still deprived of his previous holdings , he offered to support Robert , but was rebuffed and instead supported the king . Henry placed Stafford Castle in Pantulf 's custody . Besides controlling Stafford Castle , Pantulf mediated between Henry and some of the Welsh princes , who had previously sided with Robert , and helped secure their support for the king . Later Pantulf again acted as an envoy for the king , being sent to secure the switch of sides of Robert 's men who were holding Bridgnorth . Pantulf won their change of sides by offering the men lands worth a 100 pounds on the king 's behalf . His services to the king earned Pantulf the restoration of his confiscated estates as well as the grant of further lands ? including the fief of Roger de Courcelles .

= = Death and legacy = =

Pantulf married Lescelina and they had four sons ? Philip , Ivo , Arnald and Robert . He and his wife founded Noron Priory , in 1073 . This was located in Normandy and was founded as a small dependent priory of Saint Evroul . Besides Noron , Pantulf was also a benefactor of the Saint @-@ Evroul . In 1092 Pantulf journeyed to southern Italy again , this time to secure a relic of Saint Nicholas for his foundation at Noron . During this visit , he was offered extensive lands in Apulia by Robert Guiscard , but declined the offer and returned to the north . Pantulf died on 16 April , probably in 1112 , when his English lands were transferred to his second son Robert . The Norman lands went to the eldest son , Philip . Pantulf and his wife were buried at Noron in the cloister of his priory there .