

= Gervase de Cornhill =

Gervase de Cornhill ( sometimes Gervase of Cornhill ; c . 1110 @-@ c . 1183 ) was an Anglo @-@ Norman royal official and sheriff . Beginning his royal service as a justice in London in 1147 , he continued to serve both King Stephen of England and Henry II until his death around 1183 . He played a minor role in the Becket controversy in 1170 .

= = Early life = =

According to the medievalist Katharine Keats @-@ Rohan , Gervase was the son of Roger , who was the nephew of Hubert the queen 's chamberlain . Other scholars are less sure that Gervase was Roger 's son , and argue that Gervase was Hubert 's nephew . Gervase was likely born around 1110 . He married Agnes , the daughter of Edward of Cornhill . After his marriage , he became known as de Cornhill because of his wife 's property .

= = Royal administrator = =

Gervase was royal justice in London in 1147 , and continued to claim that title through the 1170s on his personal seal . He was one of the members of the royal administration under King Stephen of England . Gervase was also a merchant and financier . Around 1143 he loaned money to Stephen 's wife Matilda of Boulogne , and received in pledge land at Gamlingay in Cambridgeshire . The queen was unable to repay the debt , and the lands pledged eventually became Gervase 's . Gervase also loaned money to Hugh Tirel , son of Walter Tirel , in 1146 to enable Hugh to go on the Second Crusade . In return , Hugh pledged the manor of Langham in Essex to Gervase .

Gervase held the office of Sheriff of London in 1155 through 1157 , 1160 and 1161 , and may have held that office between 1159 and 1160 as well . He also held the office of Sheriff of Surrey from 1163 until his death as well as the office of Sheriff of Kent from 1167 to 1174 . Gervase was named a judge on one of the eyre circuits in 1170 .

= = Later life = =

In 1170 , Gervase was involved with attempts to keep Thomas Becket , who had been in exile , from returning to England . Working with Gervase were Roger de Pont L 'Évêque the Archbishop of York , Gilbert Foliot the Bishop of London , Josceline de Bohon the Bishop of Salisbury , Reginald de Warenne the Sheriff of Sussex , and Ranulf de Broc . Gervase was part of the party that met Becket at Sandwich on 1 December 1070 when the archbishop returned to England . The lay members of the group , led by Gervase , complained that the archbishop was sowing dissension in the land by his excommunication of the three ecclesiastics who were with the group , but Becket managed to calm the officials by stating he would consider the matter and reply to them the next day . The next day the group was accompanied by some clergy sent by the ecclesiastics who had been excommunicated by Becket . Nothing further was accomplished by this meeting except further offers from Becket to consider other options . Afterwards , Gervase and Ranulf de Broc tried to discover which of the citizens of London had welcomed Becket back into the kingdom , but were frustrated by refusal of the London clergy to appear and by the laymen refusing to answer to anything but royal writs .

Gervase may be identical with the Gervase who in 1174 presented a loyalty speech to King Henry II from the citizens of London . In 1177 Gervase , along with Richard de Luci , the justiciar and Roger fitzReinfrid , assessed land taxes and heard judicial cases in Middlesex and Hampshire .

Gervase held lands in London inherited from his father @-@ in @-@ law , lands in Kent from his father , and lands in Gamlingay which he got through a mortgage . He also acquired other lands in Essex and Surrey . He also gave lands at Greenwich and East Lewisham to St. Peter 's Abbey in Ghent and other lands to Holy Trinity Priory at Aldgate .

= = Death and legacy = =

Gervase died between Michaelmas in 1183 and Michaelmas 1184 . Gervase 's offspring were Henry , Reginald ( or Rainald ) , and Ralph . Ralph was also Sheriff of Kent ( 1191 ? 1192 ) and Surrey ( 1191 ? 1194 ) . The medieval writer William of Canterbury stated of Gervase that he was " thinking of his usurious two @-@ thirds and hundredths rather than of what was good and right " .