

= Ranulf de Broc =

Ranulf de Broc (sometimes Rannulf de Broc ; died around 1179) was an Anglo -@-@ Norman nobleman and royal official during the reign of King Henry II of England . He held two offices in the royal household as well as performing other administrative duties for the king . During the Becket controversy (lasting until Becket 's death in 1170) between King Henry and Thomas Becket , the Archbishop of Canterbury , de Broc supported the king and was granted the administration of the exiled archbishop 's lands during the later half of the 1160s . This earned de Broc three sentences of excommunication from the archbishop because of de Broc 's financial exactions from the estates . De Broc was with the four men who murdered Becket in December 1170 , although he did not take part in the actual murder . At de Broc 's death around 1179 , he left behind a widow and five daughters , who were his co @-@ heiresses .

= = Early life and career = =

De Broc was the son of Oin Purcel and was the nephew of Nigel de Broc . De Broc held the offices of usher and marshall in the royal household under King Henry II . He was receiver of the forest of Witingelega in Hampshire from 1158 to 1168 .

= = Administrator of Canterbury = =

During the Becket controversy , which began in October 1163 , de Broc supported King Henry II of England and was appointed to oversee the lands and income of the see of Canterbury while Thomas Becket , the Archbishop of Canterbury , was in exile after fleeing England in October 1164 . The estates were given into de Broc 's custody at Christmas 1164 , although the grant was back @-@ dated to Michaelmas (29 September) 1164 . De Broc was to pay the king 1562 pounds 5 shillings and 5 @.@ 5 pence annually from the revenues of the estate . Ranulf entrusted the day @-@ to @-@ day administration of Canterbury to his kinsman Robert de Broc . The de Brocs continued to administer the estates until Michaelmas 1170 . Soon after de Broc took up the administration of Canterbury , Becket accused de Broc of despoiling the Canterbury estates . Historians are not clear on whether Becket 's charges were just propaganda or if the estates were actually damaged . De Broc managed to secure the support of some of the monks of the cathedral chapter of Canterbury , as some monks were willing to inform de Broc of any proceedings of the chapter that were favourable to Becket .

Late in December 1164 de Broc was one of the royal officials who took possession of the archiepiscopal residence at Lambeth for the king as well as arresting the relatives , clerks , and members of the household of Becket who had aided Becket 's flight into exile . In June 1166 Becket excommunicated de Broc for his part in administering the archiepiscopal estates for the king while Becket was in exile . Becket again excommunicated de Broc in April 1169 , along with Robert de Broc and a number of other royal officials .

= = Role in Becket 's murder = =

In July 1170 , Becket and the king were reconciled and the king agreed that the archiepiscopal estates would be returned to Becket 's control . But difficulties dragged on and Becket accused de Broc of stripping the estates of the recent harvest and storing it away from the archbishop 's control . In November , John of Salisbury was sent by Becket to England to inspect the estates prior to Becket 's return from exile . John claimed that although de Broc had originally returned custody of the estates to Becket 's officials , shortly before John 's arrival de Broc had regained control of the estates and expelled Becket 's officials . De Broc was also accused of seizing a cargo of the archbishop 's wine and destroying the ship carrying it .

Later in 1170 , de Broc was involved in an attempt to keep Becket from returning to England . Working with de Broc were Roger de Pont L 'Évêque ? the Archbishop of York , Gilbert Foliot ? the

Bishop of London , Josceline de Bohon ? the Bishop of Salisbury , Gervase de Cornhill ? the Sheriff of Kent , and Reginald de Warenne . De Broc was part of the party that met Becket at Sandwich on 1 December 1070 when the archbishop returned to England . The group , led by Gervase of Cornhill , complained that Becket was sowing dissension in the land by his excommunication of the Archbishop of York and the Bishops of London and Salisbury , 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 three excommunicated ecclesiastics , but nothing was accomplished by this meeting except further offers from Becket to consider other options .

Becket excommunicated both de Brocs again on Christmas Day , 1170 . On 28 December 1170 , de Broc received at Saltwood Castle four knights ? William de Tracy , Reginald fitzUrse , Hugh de Morville , and Richard le Breton ? who had arrived from the continent . The five men conceived a plan to surround Canterbury Cathedral and force Becket to rescind his excommunications . On 29 December 1170 , the five men arrived at Canterbury , where it appears that de Broc was in charge of the soldiers surrounding the cathedral while the other four went inside to negotiate with the archbishop . The four did not succeed in persuading the archbishop and the situation degenerated into the four men murdering Becket at one of the altars of the cathedral . After this , the four rejoined de Broc and searched the archiepiscopal residence for papers and other documents that de Broc was to send to the king . The party then returned to Saltwood .

= = Later career and death = =

In the Revolt of 1173 ? 74 by Henry II 's sons against their father , the king gave de Broc custody of Haughley Castle . On 13 October 1173 , Robert de Beaumont , the Earl of Leicester , captured the castle for the rebels and burned it to the ground .

De Broc married Dametta de Gorron , who brought lands at Frollebury in Hampshire and Chetton , Eudon and Berwick in Shropshire to the marriage . Besides his wife 's lands , de Broc also held lands worth half a knight 's fee at Angmering in Sussex and lands worth a full knight 's fee at Pepperharrow .

De Broc 's marriage produced five daughters , who were de Broc 's coheiresses when he died around 1179 . Dametta died in 1204 . The eldest daughter was Edolina , and the other four were Felicia , Sibil , Lucy , and Clemence . Edolina married Stephen of Turnham , Felicia married William Harang , Sibil married William de Arundel and Ralph Belet , and Clemence married William de Tatlington .