

= Gilbert de Lacy =

Gilbert de Lacy (died after 1163) was a medieval Anglo -@-@ Norman baron in England , the grandson of Walter de Lacy who died in 1085 . Gilbert 's father forfeited his English lands in 1096 , and Gilbert initially only inherited the lands in Normandy . The younger de Lacy spent much of his life trying to recover his father 's English lands , and eventually succeeded . Around 1158 , de Lacy became a Templar and went to the Holy Land , where he was one of the commanders against Nur ad @-@ Din in the early 1160s . He died after 1163 .

= = Background and family = =

Gilbert de Lacy was the son of Roger de Lacy , who in turn was the son of Walter de Lacy who died in 1085 . Roger de Lacy was banished from England in 1096 , and his estates were confiscated . These lands , which included substantial holdings along the border with Wales , were given to Pain fitzJohn , Josce de Dinan and Miles of Gloucester . Roger de Lacy 's lands in Normandy , however , were not confiscated , as they were held of the Bishop of Bayeux in feudal tenure .

= = Stephen 's reign = =

Gilbert de Lacy had inherited his father 's lands in Normandy by 1133 , and by 1136 was in England with King Stephen of England . Although de Lacy recovered some of his father 's lands , the border lands near Wales were not recovered . Among the lands Gilbert recovered were lands about Weobley . He also was granted some lands in Yorkshire that had been in dispute .

Although de Lacy had spent time at Stephen 's court , during the civil war that occurred during Stephen 's reign , he switched sides and served Stephen 's rival , Matilda the Empress . In 1138 , he was besieged by the king at Weobley along with his cousin Geoffrey Talbot , but both men escaped when the king took the castle in June . De Lacy also led an army in an attack against Bath in the service of the Empress , along with Geoffrey Talbot , which also occurred in 1138 and which some historians have seen as the opening act of the civil war .

De Lacy witnessed charters of the Empress in 1141 . During the later 1140s , de Lacy was able to recover many of his father 's Welsh marcher lands , and one of his efforts at Ludlow was later embroidered in the medieval romance Fouke le Fitz Waryn . He and Miles of Gloucester were claimants to many of the same lands , and during Stephen 's reign were generally on opposite sides of the succession dispute . In June 1153 , de Lacy was in the company of Matilda 's son , Henry fitzEmpress , who became King Henry II of England in 1154 .

De Lacy gave land to the cathedral chapter of Hereford Cathedral . He also gave a manor at Guiting to the Knights Templar and two churches , at Weobley and Clodock to Llanthony Priory , which was a monastery founded by his family .

= = Later years and death = =

Around 1158 de Lacy surrendered his lands to his eldest son Robert when the elder de Lacy became a member of the Knights Templar . He then travelled through France to Jerusalem , where de Lacy became precentor of the Templars in the County of Tripoli . In 1163 , de Lacy was one of the crusader army commanders fighting against Nur ad @-@ Din . His year of death is unknown , but he was commemorated on 20 November at Hereford Cathedral . Robert died without children sometime before 1162 , when Gilbert 's younger son Hugh de Lacy inherited the lands .

The Gesta Stephani called de Lacy " a man of judgement and shrewd and painstaking in every operation of war " .