

= Peter de Maulay =

Peter de Maulay or Peter de Mauley ( died 1241 ) was a nobleman and administrator who was one of King John of England 's " evil counsellors " . First appearing in the historical record in 1202 , Maulay was in England by 1204 and serving as an official of John . During the rebellions of the end of John 's reign , Maulay supported the king and was given custody of the king 's younger son as well as important prisoners . Maulay continued to serve the new king after 1216 but ran into difficulties with the regents for the young King Henry III and was accused of treason in 1221 . Although cleared of the treason accusation , Maulay retired to his lands in late 1221 . In 1223 Maulay 's lands at Upavon were confiscated by the king but were returned within a few months . Upavon was again confiscated in 1229 and given to another noble , but in 1233 King Henry regranted the manor to Maulay , an event which led to a revolt by Richard Marshal , the Earl of Pembroke , against the king . In 1241 Maulay went on crusade and died in late 1241 , probably in the Holy Land while on crusade .

= = Early life = =

Maulay 's parentage is unknown , but he originated from the Maulay region in Poitou . He appears to have had a younger brother named Aimery , who possibly was the same as an Aimery de Maulay who owned lands in Quinçay and La Rochelle between 1218 and 1259 . In a monastic chronicle , Peter is said to have relinquished his lands in France to Aimery in 1204 , after the overlordship of the lands passed from King John of England to King Philip II of France . Peter 's first appearance in the historical record was in 1202 , when he received land around Loudun in exchange for Moncontour . Under John , he was appointed an usher in the king 's household , where he soon became a close advisor of the king . He was considered one of the " evil counsellors " of John by the chronicler Roger of Wendover .

After John 's loss of Normandy , Maulay went to England and was given the manor of Upavon in Wiltshire . His grant of the manor was at the king 's pleasure , because the manor , which had been held by a noble who forfeited his land in England by staying in Normandy after its loss , would need to be restored to its rightful holder if John recovered Normandy . He served as an envoy to Rome in 1213 and in 1214 was in command of royal forces at La Rochelle in France . In 1214 he married Isabella , the daughter and heiress of Robert of Thornham . Robert had died in 1211 , so through his wife , Maulay acquired the Barony of Mulgrave in Yorkshire . Maulay paid the king 7000 marks as a fine for the right to marry Isabella , one of the highest fines paid for the right to marry under John . According to the medieval chronicler Ralph of Coggeshall , Maulay was the murderer of John 's nephew Arthur of Brittany .

When the barons of England revolted against John in 1215 , Maulay was given command of Corfe Castle by John . Along with Corfe , Maulay was also given custody of John 's younger son , Richard of Cornwall . He was also given Gomshall in Surrey . In 1216 he was given the office of Sheriff of Dorset and Somerset , where he made a name for himself with his exactions and heavy profiteering . Besides the custody of Richard of Cornwall , Maulay was also responsible for supervising the confinement of John 's niece , Eleanor of Brittany , who , as the daughter of Geoffrey II , Duke of Brittany , elder brother of King John , had a strong claim to the English throne and had been held captive since 1202 . At times , he was also responsible for keeping John 's wife , Isabella of Angouleme and his heir , Prince Henry , safe from rebels , as long as they were at Corfe .

= = Under Henry III = =

Maulay remained in office under the new king , Henry III , who succeeded to the throne in late 1216 . While at Corfe , he had custody of William of Lancaster , who had been captured by the royalist side at Rochester in 1215 . Ranulf de Blondville , the Earl of Chester , attempted to secure William 's freedom but was rebuffed by Maulay , leading the earl to threaten to depart England and the king 's cause and go on crusade . In early 1217 Maulay was ordered by the regent , William Marshal , to

surrender control of Sherborne Castle and Somerset to William Longespee , the Earl of Salisbury , to help secure the return of Longespee to the royal cause . But Maulay refused to do so . In October 1217 , Maulay was summoned to the royal court to answer charges that he had waged a private war against the earl over control of Somerset , and that he had broken a truce that had held between the two men . The dispute was finally solved in February 1218 when Maulay was confirmed by the regent as custodian of Sherborne Castle and in the office of Sheriff of Somerset . Maulay compensated Longespee for his loss with a payment of 500 pounds , and a further payment of 1000 pounds by the government and custody of a royal ward .

Maulay received a total of 6561 marks by 1221 from ransoms paid by 16 prisoners he held at Corfe . He also paid nothing into the Exchequer from Somerset or Dorset for the period from 1218 to 1220 , with the total owed to the government amounting to a bit over 1500 pounds . Maulay 's extortions , however , led to him losing custody of Richard of Cornwall in 1220 .

Maulay brought Richard of Cornwall to London to attend his brother 's second coronation , which occurred on 17 May 1220 .

= = Treason accusations = =

On 20 May 1221 Maulay was accused of treason by Richard Mucegros and Hubert de Burgh before the king . The specific crime was alleged to be a plot to hand over Eleanor of Brittany , then held at Corfe Castle , to King Louis IX of France . Maulay was imprisoned for a short time , but on 4 June was released after surrendering Corfe to the king . He was allowed to retain his sherifffdom . The accusation may have owed more to the fact that Maulay had recently taken Mucegros ' lands into custody because Mucegros had failed to make a payment due for a royal fine . The event may also have been used by de Burgh as an opportunity to weaken Maulay 's patron and de Burgh 's rival for power , Peter des Roches , while des Roches was out of England . The loss of Corfe by one of des Roches ' primary supporters would have weakened des Roches ' standing and power . In July Peter des Roches returned to England and in late July was instrumental in the clearing of Maulay from the charges of treason . Maulay was not given back custody of Corfe , but on 29 July the royal government discharged the 7000 marks that Maulay still owed for his marriage fine . The stated reason for the release of this debt was to compensate Maulay for his expenses while controlling Corfe , but the real reason appears to have been to compensate for the loss of Corfe . In late 1221 Maulay agreed to go on crusade with Peter des Roches and Falkes de Breauté , another of des Roches supporters . The loss of Damietta in September meant that the three men postponed their departure , and in November 1221 Maulay was replaced as sheriff . In return for Maulay 's agreement to the ouster , the Exchequer wrote off more debts that Maulay owed the government , this time over 8800 marks . Maulay retired to his lands in Yorkshire .

= = Upavon case = =

In February 1223 , Maulay forfeited Upavon to the king . This was part of a string of confiscations that struck at supporters of des Roches , including William de Cantilupe , Breauté , and Robert de Vieuxpont , by taking back grants that had been made earlier and which were held at the king 's will . The seizures were made to teach the nobles a lesson and curb their dissension from the royal government , which was in the hands of Roches ' rival de Burgh . Most of the manors , including Upavon , were returned to their previous holders in April after a settlement between de Burgh and those who resented his government . Around this time Maulay began work on the castle of Mulgrave Castle , in Yorkshire , which was part of his wife 's inheritance . In June and July 1224 , Maulay was present at on the royal side at the siege of Bedford Castle , which was held by de Breauté against the government . In 1225 Maulay claimed that he had sworn to King John that he would not give up custody of the royal castles until after John 's son came of age . Maulay lost Upavon to the king again in 1229 , with the king regranting Upavon to Gilbert Basset . This grant to Basset was by charter , with the lands to be held in fee . Maulay claimed that he only gave up his tenure because of threats by de Burgh .

Maulay returned to royal service in 1230 when he joined the royal expedition to Brittany and was once more at the royal court in 1232 as a follower of Peter des Roches . Maulay regained Upavon in 1233 , after the king reopened the case . Henry justified his action as being exercised " per voluntatem nostrum " , or through his own will . Henry opened a case of quo warranto , and then declined to recognize his own charter as valid , thus granting the manor to Maulay . Although the case could be made that Maulay 's right to the manor was better than Basset 's , it is more probable that the dispute over Upavon and its ownership was the opening move in an effort to curtail the influence of Richard Marshall , the Earl of Pembroke . It was also an attempt to turn back grants made by the king to de Burgh 's supporters , now that de Burgh had fallen from power . The royal actions led to conflict between Henry III and the barons , because of Henry 's grant of the manor to Basset . The restoration to Maulay and Basset 's deprivation were considered illegal by many of the nobles , and led to a revolt by Basset and Marshal , who was Basset 's overlord . Maulay was seen as a non @-@ Englishman who was profiting over a popular English noble , Basset . Maulay was briefly in disgrace but managed to return to favour , and was named constable of Devizes in January 1234 , his first royal appointment since 1221 . He was granted the office of Sheriff of Northamptonshire in 1236 , perhaps owing these offices more to his former ward , Richard of Cornwall , than to his patron des Roches , who fell from power in 1234 . Des Roches ' loss of power did not adversely affect Maulay 's royal service . Maulay was present at the baptism of Prince Edward , and was one of the nobles who raised the infant from the baptismal font .

= = Last years and legacy = =

Maulay had vowed to go on crusade in 1220 , and in 1241 he finally set out for the Holy Land , along with Richard of Cornwall . He died later in 1241 , probably while still in the Holy Land . His wife died before him and his heir was his son Peter de Maulay . Besides his heir , Maulay had two other sons ? Robert and Stephen , and a daughter , Hilary , who married Piers de Brus , son and heir of Piers de Brus , the Lord of Skelton . Maulay had endowed a chantry at Meaux Abbey in Yorkshire in memory of his wife . He also confirmed grants of lands to Eskdale Priory , a Grandmontine house founded by Isabella 's father , and to Nostell Priory . Maulay was also a benefactor of the Knights of Saint Thomas , a military religious order for Englishmen .