

= William de Braose , 3rd Lord of Bramber =

William de Braose , 3rd Lord of Bramber ( fl . 1135 ? 1179 ) was a 12th @-@ century Marcher lord who secured a foundation for the dominant position later held by the Braose family in the Welsh Marches . In addition to the family 's English holdings in Sussex and Devon , William had inherited Radnor and Builth , in Wales , from his father Philip . By his marriage he increased the Braose Welsh holdings to include Brecon and Abergavenny .

William remained loyal to King Stephen during the 12th @-@ century period of civil war . He became a trusted royal servant during the subsequent reign of Henry II , accompanying the king on campaigns in France and Ireland . He served as sheriff of Herefordshire from 1173 until 1175 . The family 's power reached its peak under his son William during the reigns of King Richard I and King John .

= = Lands and family = =

William was the eldest son of Philip de Braose , lord of Bramber . His mother was Aenor , daughter of Juhel of Totnes . He was the third in the line of the Anglo @-@ Norman Braose family founded by his grandfather , the first William de Braose . After his father died in the 1130s William inherited lordships , land and castles in Sussex , with his caput at Bramber . He also held Totnes in Devon and Radnor and Builth in the Welsh Marches . He confirmed the grants of his father and grandfather to the abbey of St Florent in Anjou and made further grants to the abbey 's dependent priory at Sele in Sussex . In about 1155 , he also inherited through his mother 's family one half of the honour of Barnstaple in Devon , paying a fee of 1000 marks for the privilege . William became an internationally recognised figure . When Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury was asked by Pope Adrian IV to inquire into the background of a certain Walter , canon of St Ruf , his reply , dated to 1154 / 9 read :

The facts which you demand need but little enquiry ; for they shine so brightly in themselves that they cannot be hid ; so great is the brilliance of his noble birth and the glory of all his kin . For Walter , as we know for a fact , was the son of a distinguished knight and born of a noble mother in lawful wedlock , and he is closely related by blood to the noble William de Braose .

William had married Bertha , daughter of Miles of Gloucester and Sibyl de Neufmarché , by 1150 . When each of Bertha 's four brothers died leaving no issue , William 's marriage became unexpectedly valuable . He gained control of the lordships of Brecon and Abergavenny after 1166 when the last brother died . These additional land holdings greatly expanded the territorial power and income of the Braose family . They now held a vast block of territory in the Welsh Marches as well as their extensive interests in Sussex and Devon . William 's daughters were able to make good marriages , notably Sibyl to William de Ferrers , Earl of Derby . Maud was married to John de Brompton of Shropshire . William 's son and heir , another William de Braose , became a major player in national politics under King John .

= = Royal service = =

Empress Maud , the only legitimate living child of Henry I , landed in England in 1139 in an attempt to press her claim to the monarchy . She was soon besieged by King Stephen 's forces at Arundel castle . Stephen allowed Maud a safe conduct to Bristol and provided her with an escort , which included William de Braose , suggesting that he was an adherent of King Stephen . William was present as a witness when three charters were issued by Stephen at Lewes dated to the years 1148 ? 53 , therefore it appears that he remained loyal to the king until the Treaty of Wallingford ended the hostilities .

William was in Sussex in 1153 , but he followed Duke Henry , soon to become King Henry II , to Normandy in 1154 . William was frequently with the new king . He was one of the military leaders who supported Henry at Rhuddlan in 1157 . He witnessed one of the king 's charters at Romsey in 1158 , and he is recorded at the king 's court in Wiltshire in 1164 when the Constitutions of

Clarendon were enacted . He accompanied the king on expedition to France , witnessing at Leons in 1161 and Chinon in 1162 . William is also documented on the Irish campaign at Dublin in 1171 and Wexford 1172 . William 's younger brother , Philip , also accompanied the king to Ireland , and remained with the garrison at Wexford . In 1177 Philip was granted the kingdom of Limerick by Henry but failed to take possession after the citizens set fire to the town .

When Henry was facing war with his sons in 1173 , William was appointed as sheriff of Herefordshire at Easter . He maintained the King 's interests in Herefordshire until 1175 .

= = Later life and death = =

King Henry withdrew his favour from the family after William 's son organised the murder of Seisyll ap Dyfnwal and other Welsh princes at Abergavenny in 1176 . There is little subsequent record of William in public life , and it is likely that he retired to his estates in Sussex . William died after 1179 and was succeeded by his son , William de Braose , 4th Lord of Bramber , who gained the favour of both King Richard I and King John and became a dominant force in the Welsh Marches during their reigns .