

= Walter de Beauchamp (nobleman) =

Walter de Beauchamp (sometimes Walter I of Beauchamp , Walter of Beauchamp , Walter I de Beauchamp , or Walter de Bellocampo ; died between 1130 and 1133) was a medieval nobleman and Sheriff of Worcestershire . Married to the daughter of one of his predecessors as sheriff . Nothing is known for sure of his background before he appears as a witness to royal charters between 1108 and 1111 . Beauchamp also inherited offices in the royal household from his father @-@ in @-@ law , and also appears to have been a royal forester . He and another nobleman divided some of the lands of his father @-@ in @-@ law , but disagreements about the division lasted until the 12th century between the two families . He died between 1130 and 1133 , and one of his descendants later became Earl of Warwick .

= = Background and family = =

Beauchamp is sometimes known as Walter de Beauchamp of Elmley , to distinguish him from the members of the Beauchamp family of Bedford . He married the daughter of Urse d 'Abetot , who is usually named Emeline , although her name is not given in contemporary records . Urse d 'Abetot was the Sheriff of Worcestershire from around 1069 to around 1108 . Beauchamp may have been a tenant of his father @-@ in @-@ law prior to his marriage . Nothing is known for sure of Beauchamp 's background , and he first witnessed a royal charter sometime between 1108 and 1111 . Some documents suggest that his father may have been named Peveral de Beauchamp and that he had a brother named William Peveral de Beauchamp , but the only identifiable Peveral is younger than Walter .

= = Sheriff = =

In the 1110s , Beauchamp became Sheriff of Worcestershire , holding the office until 1130 . Some sources state he received the office in 1114 , and others place the acquisition of the office between December 1113 and April 1116 . Beauchamp inherited most of d 'Abetot 's lands and the hereditary office of Sheriff of Worcestershire when Roger d 'Abetot , Urse 's son , forfeited his lands and offices after being exiled by Henry I for murder . King Henry I of England granted Beauchamp the right to hunt wolves and foxes in the royal forests of Worcestershire . Along with the right to hunt in the royal forests came a grant of the right to keep pheasants on his own lands , and the right to fine anyone hunting the birds without his permission .

Beauchamp probably held the office of royal forester for Worcestershire as well as sheriff . The evidence for this is that after Beauchamp 's death , his son William was granted the revenues from the royal forests of Worcestershire at the same rate as his father had held them ; this strongly implies that the elder held the office of forester . The historian Judith Green felt that Walter de Beauchamp might possibly have held the office of constable , which had been held by his father @-@ in @-@ law , although the historian C. Warren Hollister felt that Beauchamp definitely did hold the office . He also held the royal office of dispenser , an office which later became known as a butler . He acquired this because his wife inherited the office from her father . The date when he acquired the office is unknown . While a member of the royal household , Beauchamp witnessed a number of royal charters , mainly when the king was in England .

Beauchamp and the Bishop of Worcester had a dispute over the lands that Beauchamp inherited from d 'Abetot . The dispute caused the two sides to agree to the creation of the Worcester Survey , a land survey undertaken in Worcestershire sometime between 1108 and 1118 that shows changes in land ownership after the Domesday Book .

D 'Abetot 's widow Adeliza granted her dower lands in the county of Worcestershire to Beauchamp , which was confirmed by King Henry sometime between 1123 and 1129 , although the document cannot be dated more precisely than that . In 1130 , at Michaelmas , Henry allowed Beauchamp to not pay geld on his lands in Berkshire , and he is mentioned in the 1130 Pipe Roll as still living .

= = Death and legacy = =

Sometime between 1130 and 1133 , Beauchamp died and his son William de Beauchamp took over his lands . Stephen de Beauchamp , a tenant on the Beauchamp lands and a friend of Robert of Gloucester , was likely a younger son of Walter 's . The historian David Crouch says that another son was Walter , who is recorded as William 's brother and was a follower of Waleran , Count of Meulan . Beauchamp was the ancestor of the Beauchamp family of Elmley in Worcestershire , a member of which , William de Beauchamp , became Earl of Warwick .

The lands and offices of Urse 's brother Robert were divided between Beauchamp and Robert Marmion . Marmion and Beauchamp disagreed about the division of the lands , leading to a long dispute between the two families that was only settled in the late 12th century . Some sources state that another daughter of Urse d 'Abetot married Robert Marmion , which was the reason for the division of the lands and offices between the two men . Other sources are less sure , accepting this as one possibility among several for the divided inheritance between the Marmion and Beauchamp families . Because there are no contemporary sources showing that Urse had any children besides his son and the daughter who married Beauchamp , another possibility is that Urse 's brother Robert had a daughter who married Marmion , and that Urse managed to acquire part of her inheritance on the strength of his friendship with King William II of England .