

= William of York =

William of York (late 11th century ? 8 June 1154) , also known as William fitzHerbert , William I fitzHerbert and William of Thwayt , was an English priest and Archbishop of York . William has the unusual distinction of having been Archbishop of York twice , both before and after his rival Henry Murdac . He was a relative of King Stephen of England , and the king helped secure FitzHerbert 's election to York after a number of candidates had failed to secure papal confirmation . William faced opposition from the Cistercians who , after the election of the Cistercian Pope Eugene III , managed to have the archbishop deposed in favour of the Cistercian Murdac . From 1147 until 1153 , William worked to secure his restoration to York , which he finally achieved after the deaths of both Murdac and Eugene III . He did not retain the see long , as he died shortly after returning to York , allegedly having been poisoned . After William 's death miracles were reported at his tomb from the year 1177 onwards , and in the year 1227 he was declared a saint .

= = Early life = =

Born William fitzHerbert in York , William was the son of Herbert of Winchester , or Herbert fitzAlberic , chancellor and treasurer of King Henry I. Most sources say his mother was Emma , half @-@ sister of King Stephen and Henry of Blois , Bishop of Winchester , and that she was an illegitimate daughter of Stephen II , Count of Blois , Stephen 's father . New research , however , suggests that Emma might have been a daughter of Hunger fitzOdin , who held lands in Dorset in the Domesday survey . William was born sometime before the 1090s , but the exact date of birth is unknown .

William held the prebendary of Weighton in the diocese of Yorkshire between 27 June 1109 and 24 February 1114 . Sometime between 1109 and 1114 he was appointed Treasurer of York . He was also appointed archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire at an unknown date between 1125 and 1133 . The influence of his rich and powerful father , who had many landholdings in Yorkshire may have been of benefit in gaining him these offices at a relatively early age . William apparently held both of these offices until his election as archbishop . Serving under Archbishop Thurstan of York , William became involved in Thurstan 's dispute with King Henry I after Henry demanded that the Archbishops of York should accept subordination to the Archbishops of Canterbury . William accompanied Thurstan into exile in Europe and on embassies to the papal court . Reconciliation with Henry allowed a return to York in 1121 . A papal ruling in favour of the independence of the Archbishops of York was finally delivered in 1127 .

= = Election problems = =

In January 1141 William was elected Archbishop of York . Originally , the cathedral chapter of York had elected Waltheof in 1140 , but that election was set aside because one of Waltheof 's supporters had made an uncanonical gift to secure Waltheof 's election . Then Henry of Blois tried to secure the see for Henry de Sully , another nephew of Stephen and Henry 's . Sully 's election was opposed by Pope Innocent II , who refused to confirm him as archbishop while he retained his post as Abbot of Fécamp . It was only at a third election , held in January 1141 , that William was selected . Whether he had been a candidate in the previous two elections is unknown .

The election was opposed by the Cistercian monasteries of Yorkshire , and by the archdeacons of York . The Cistercians opposed on the grounds that the Second Lateran Council in 1139 had given the religious houses of a diocese the right to participate in the election of the bishop . Theobald of Bec , the Archbishop of Canterbury , refused to recognise William 's election due to allegations of simony , or the acquisition of church positions by bribery , and of interference by King Stephen . In 1143 , Pope Innocent II ruled that FitzHerbert could be confirmed in office if he swore under oath that the allegations were false . After he swore the oath , Henry of Blois , who was also papal legate , found William innocent , and he was consecrated as archbishop on 26 September 1143 .

= = First archiepiscopate and deposition = =

As archbishop , William undertook a number of ecclesiastical reforms , and became popular with the people of York . However , he still needed a pallium , the sign of an archbishop 's authority from the pope , which he had not yet received . The Cistercians , who were still adamantly opposed his being archbishop , were determined to prevent his receiving it . William travelled to Rome in an attempt to obtain the pallium . The election of Pope Eugene III , a Cistercian , in 1145 , was a setback for FitzHerbert 's cause . Bernard of Clairvaux , the famous Cistercian abbot and religious leader , exerted all his influence to ensure William 's suspension , sending a series of complaints to the new pope that William had been intruded by secular powers into the see , that he was oppressing the Cistercian monasteries and that he had irregularly appointed William of St. Barbara as Dean of York . In the winter of 1145 ? 46 Eugene re @-@ examined the case , declared that William had not been validly consecrated , and suspended him from office . William was required to obtain an in @-@ person refutation of the old charges by William of St. Barbara , who was now the Bishop of Durham .

While awaiting the final decision in his case , William took up residence with one of his friends , Roger II , King of Sicily . Hearing of his suspension , some of William 's supporters in York launched a damaging attack upon Fountains Abbey which destroyed many of the buildings . William was formally deposed as archbishop by Eugene in early 1147 and the deposition was confirmed at the Council of Reims on 21 March 1148 . Another election to York was held , and the candidates included Hilary of Chichester who was the king 's candidate , and Henry Murdac , the Cistercian abbot of Fountains Abbey . Murdac 's supporters included the Cistercians and most of the clergy of the diocese , including William 's former ally , William of St. Barbara . Both sides appealed to the pope , and the pope confirmed Murdac as the successful candidate . FitzHerbert then returned to Winchester , the city he had left forty years earlier to begin his career in York .

= = Second archiepiscopate = =

King Stephen refused to accept William 's deposition and the appointment of Murdac , and prevented Murdac from taking up residence in York . Stephen probably wished to trade recognition of Murdac for support for his son Eustace . Stephen was trying to secure the coronation of Eustace as his successor during his own lifetime , to defeat the rival claims to the throne of Henry of Anjou . Within a few years , however , both Murdac and the pope had died , so William travelled to Rome to plead with the new pope , Anastasius IV , for restoration to office . The pope concurred , and William 's reappointment was confirmed on 20 December 1153 . On his return to York , while crossing the Ouse Bridge in York in triumphal procession , the bridge collapsed , yet no one was killed .

= = Death and sainthood = =

However , after less than a month back in York , William died , on 8 June 1154 , allegedly due to poison administered in the chalice at Mass . One of FitzHerbert 's clerks accused Osbert de Bayeux , an archdeacon of York , of the murder , and Osbert was summoned before the king to be tried at the royal court . Before the trial could take place , however , Stephen died , and the trial never took place . William was buried in York Minster and within a few months of his death , miracles were attributed to his intervention and a sweet smell came from his tomb when it was damaged during a fire . Nor was the body decayed or burnt in the fire . Pope Honorius III then ordered an investigation into the miracles . In 1227 , he was canonised in Rome by Pope Honorius III .

William 's feast day is celebrated on 8 June , the day of his death , although his veneration is largely localised to York . Traditional iconography and windows often depict William 's crossing of the Tweed ; some iconography shows him crossing in a boat . William 's coat of arms traditionally depicts seven mascles or lozenges . St William 's College , which was named for him is next to York Minster . It was established between 1465 and 1467 with the permission of King Edward IV as the home for chantry priests of the Cathedral . His remains were rediscovered in the 1960s and are now

in the crypt at York Minster .