

# Medieval Poingdestres

1100 - 1350

Why do we come from  
Jersey?

# Historical Events

- What are the historical events that could have affected our ancestors appearance in Jersey?
  - Relations between Dukes and Kings:
    - Duchy of Normandie and France
    - Duchy of Normandie and England
    - Monarchies of England and France
  - Crusades
  - Other?



# Kings



- 1066-1087 William I
- 1087-1100 William II
- 1100-1135 Henry I
- 1135-1154 Stephen
- 1154-1189 Henry II
- 1189-1199 Richard
- 1199-1216 John
- 1216-1272 Henry III
- 1272-1307 Edward I
- 1307-1327 Edward II

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_English\\_monarchs#House\\_of\\_Plantagenet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_English_monarchs#House_of_Plantagenet)

- 1060-1108 Philip I
- 1108-1137 Louis VI
- 1137-1180 Louis VII
- 1180-1223 Philip II
- 1123-1226 Louis VIII
- 1226-1270 Louis IX
- 1270-1285 Philip III
- 1285-1314 Philip IV
- 1314-1316 Louis X

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kings\\_of\\_France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kings_of_France)

# Wars of the Period

- 1100's: Civil War between two cousins for the thrown of England :
  - Empress Matilda (formerly married to Henry V Holy Roman Emperor) and granddaughter of William the Conqueror
  - Stephen of Blois, Count of Boulogne, grandson of William

# Wars of the Period

- 1242: Saintonge War
  - a feudal dynastic encounter that occurred in 1242 between forces of Louis IX of France and those of Henry III of England
- Throughout this period, any skirmishes between French and English monarchs with English attempts to win back Normandie and other territories lost by King John

# Crusades

- First Crusade 1095-1099
- Second Crusade 1147-1149
- Third Crusade 1187-1192
- Fourth Crusade 1202-1204
- Fifth Crusade 1217-1221
- Sixth Crusade 1228-1229
- Seventh Crusade 1248-1254
- Eighth Crusade 1270
- Ninth Crusade 1271-1272



# Other Important Dates



1066: Battle of Hastings

1069-1135: Reign of King Henry I

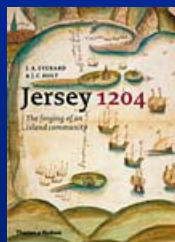


1154-1189: Reign of King Henry II

1199-1216: Reign of King John



1204: Loss of Normandy



1216-1272: Reign of King Henry III

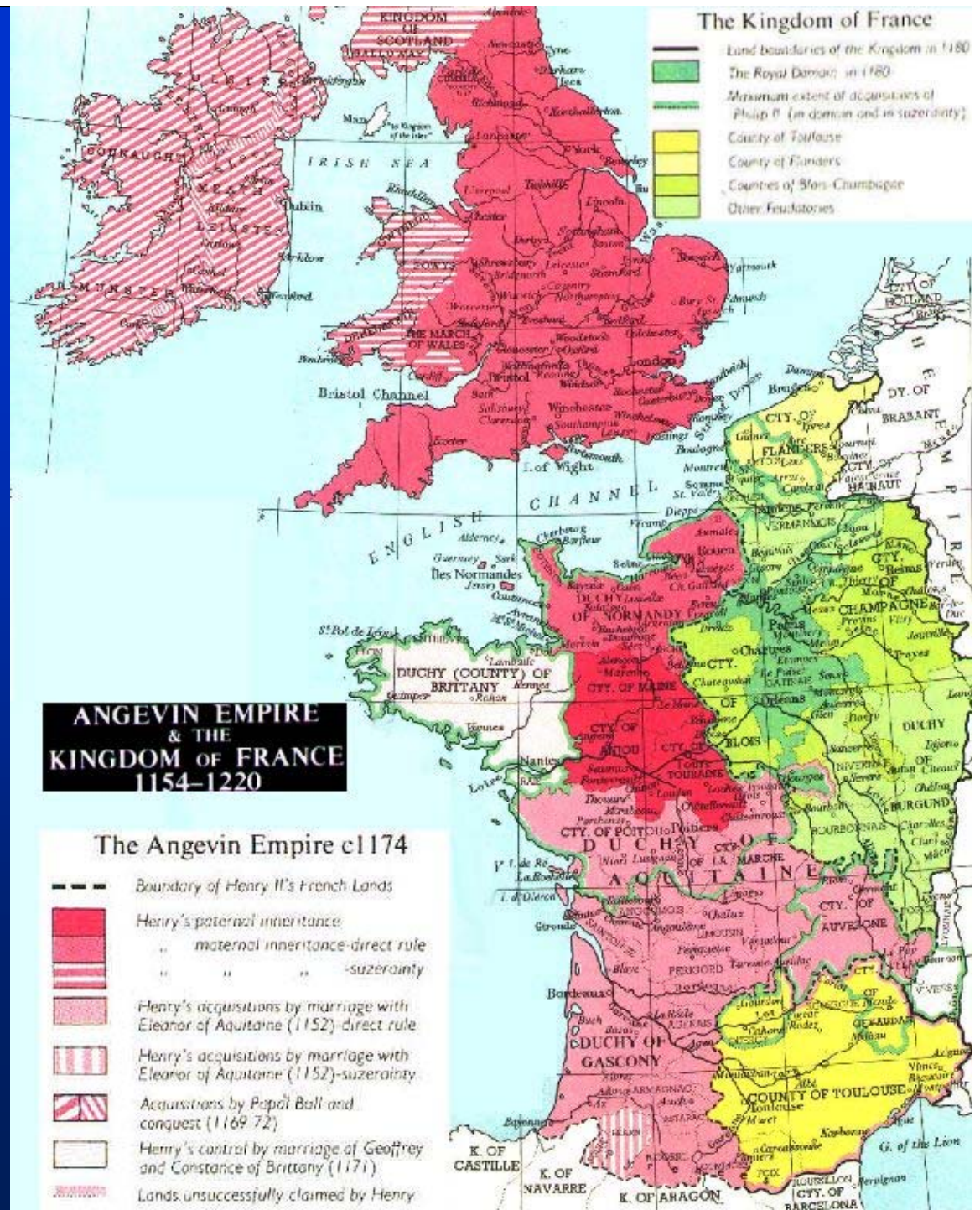
1307: Friday, October 13th



- Henry II, first Plantagenet king, 1154-89.
- Inheritance and marriage, rules lands shown in red, from Scotland to Gascony.
- Yellow & green areas ruled by Capetian King of France, Philip II, 1180-1223.

Map from Fordham University  
[www.fordham.edu/halsall/maps/1174angev.jpg](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/maps/1174angev.jpg)

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# French Aristocratic Practices

## Patrimony in Medieval Normandy

- Patrimony
  - land obtained by inheritance
  - passed undivided to the eldest son
- Other Lands  
(conquered, acquired by marriage, etc.)
  - Divided among younger sons
  - Provided for daughters as part of a dowry

# French Aristocratic Practices

## Patrimony in Medieval Normandy

As a way to maintain loyalty to the king, his sons are given overlordship (suzerainty) of the lands they will inherit, so long as they continue to pay tribute to their father, the King.

Also made the king's presence known in these lands.

# Henry II

- Reigns 1154-1189
- Rules an empire which stretches from Scotland to the Pyrenees
- Marries Eleanor of Aquitaine
  - Duchess of Aquitaine
  - former Queen of France
- Has 5 sons
  - William, b.1153 d.1156
  - Henry, b.1155 d.1183
  - Richard, b.1157 d.1199
  - Geoffrey, b.1158 d.1186
  - John, b.1166 d.1216



# The Sons of Henry II

## Henry, 'the Young King'

- should inherit under patrimony:
  - England
  - Duchy of Normandy
    - including Jersey
    - and the other Channel Islands
  - County of Anjou
- but he dies as a child and is never king



Henry,  
the Young King  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_the\\_Young\\_King](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_the_Young_King)

# The Sons of Henry II

## Richard

- known as the Lionheart
- reigns for 10 years: 1189-1199
- spends much of his reign on Crusades
- receives Duchy of Aquitaine, but also the patrimony of his brother Henry and the other lands of his brother Geoffrey
- dies without issue



Richard I.  
(from a 12th century Codex)  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_I\\_of\\_England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_I_of_England)



# The Sons of Henry II

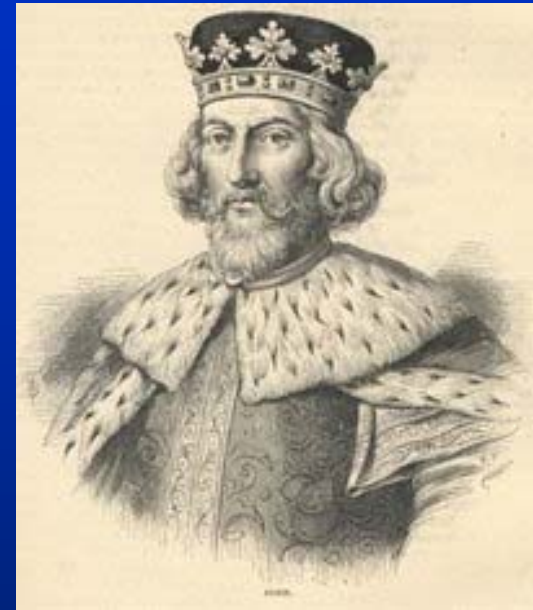
## Geoffrey

- becomes Duke of Brittany through marriage
- dies in 1186 (before his father)
- Brittany thus becomes part of Henry II's lands
- Geoffrey never becomes King
- his one son dies unexpectedly in 1203 during a hunting expedition

# The Sons of Henry II

## John

- reigns for 17 years: 1199-1216
- inherits the entire empire of Henry II as the last living heir
- doesn't trust others and others don't trust him
- loses Normandy in 1204
- Channel Islands remain loyal to John
- Barron's revolt against John, leading to Magna Carta in 1215



John depicted in *Cassell's History of England* (1902)  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_of\\_England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_England)

# About Jersey

From Roman du Rou, c.1160

*Jersey is close to the Cotentin,  
Where Normandy comes to an end;  
It is in the sea toward the west and  
It belongs to the territory of Normandy.*

Roman du Rue, by Wace, cir. 1160 A.D.  
Wace was from Jersey and a writer/historian

Quoted in  
Jersey, 1204  
By J.A. Everard & J.C. Holt  
c. 2004, p. 39

# 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Centuries in Jersey

- Jersey is securely part of the Plantagenet Empire at this time
- Jersey and the Cotenin are tied together politically, economically, religiously and socially
- Norman knights and landowners have property and interests in Jersey
- During Henry II reign there is relative peace and prosperity for Jersey

# 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Centuries in Jersey

- Henry II respects local custom and does not impose a “foreign” government
- Normandy is under the control of the Plantagenets, not the Capetians (French royal line)
- The Capetian rulers of France are weak and do not challenge Henry’s authority
- The people of Jersey have no reason to pay homage to the King of France

# 1204

- John is not as effective as Henry II
- Capetian rulers gain strength in France
- Normandy and the Channel Islands are lost in 1204 to the Capetians
- How did the events of 1204 affect Jersey?

## After 1204

When John lost Normandy, Jersey lost its existing pattern of government. Caen was no longer a center of support for Jersey. A new pattern of government had to be established.

# Jersey after 1204

## John wants Jersey back

- Works with the locals for support
- Takes first born sons of Jersey landowners hostage to force loyalty
- Sends ships and soldiers
- Invades the island in battle
- Tolerates those who switch allegiances to him
- Regains Jersey in 1206



# Jersey after 1204

What does John do after he regains Jersey?

- Builds Mont Orgueil castle for defense
- Establishes legal and economic order
- Preserves the rights of the Jersey landowners
- Sometimes enforces loyalty:
  - takes hostages
  - holds inquests
  - restricts travel to Normandy to 8 days or less

# Jersey after 1204

## Plantagenets (John then Henry III)

- Appoint good local administrators, establishing local rule of Jersey and the other Islands
- Seize land of those who side with Philip
- Redistribute forfeited land to those who have shown loyalty and support
- Need Jersey
  - hope to regain Normandy
  - hold the strategic sea route position

# After 1204

Jersey landowners who received the forfeited land of the Norman aristocracy were raised to the status of tenant-in-chief. They now reported directly to the Duke of Normandy (that is, the King of England).

# Why does Jersey remain loyal?

## Jersey supports the English King

- Plantagenets preserve the Norman heritage of the Jersey landowners
- Landowners enjoy an elevated status in their new relationship with the King
- Remaining loyal is to the landowners' economic and social advantage

# Jersey 1248-1259

- Constitutions of King John, 1248
  - Established by Henry III, John's son
  - Reflects the conditions of Jersey during the time of John's reign
  - Sets up new system of government after loss of Normandy
- Treaty of Paris, 1259
  - ends French claims to Channel Islands
  - Henry III gives up his title of Duke of Normandy

# Effects of 1204

- Today
  - Jersey is not part of France
  - Jersey is not part of the United Kingdom
  - Jersey is not represented in Parliament
  - It is a Peculiar of the Crown
- Jersey's political and constitutional foundations were laid by the reign of King Henry III, King John's son.

# Poingdestre Records

- According to Landers:
  - No traces of the name in early records of France or England and is endemic to Jersey
  - **He missed a few records!**

*Poingdestre-Poindexter A Norman Family*, John Poindexter Landers, 1977

# Poingdestre Records

- Pipe Roll of the Exchequer 1180
  - Ricardus Poindestre r.c. de xli. Pro eodem.
  - Richard Poindestre was in debt for a fine of 10 livres (angevins), imposed on him and a number of his compatriots in the prévôté of Bayeux for taking the great fish, which were the king's prerogative.

The Pipe Roll Society, Pipe Rolls of the Exchequer of Normandy, page 5 and  
Thomas Stapleton (ed.), Magni Rotuli Scaccarie Normannie, vol. I, (London 1840), pp. 6 and 271  
Researched and translated by Prof. Judith Everard, Cambridge, co-author of *Jersey 1204*



# Poingdestre Records

- Pipe Roll of the Exchequer 1195
  - Richard Poindestre was in debt, again with a large number of others, for non-payment of a tax on wine ('vinagium').
  - According to Prof. Everard (Cambridge):
    - These isolated references suggest that Richard Poindestre was not himself an official of the royal government, but an ordinary free man going about his business, apparently in the Bessin. To find out more would require an arduous search through the only other written records of the period, the archives of the cathedral and local monasteries.

The Pipe Roll Society, Pipe Rolls of the Exchequer of Normandy, page 5 and  
Thomas Stapleton (ed.), Magni Rotuli Scaccarie Normannie, vol. I, (London 1840), pp. 6 and 271  
Researched and translated by Prof. Judith Everard, Cambridge, co-author of *Jersey 1204*

# Royal Pipe Roll Society

- Henry I pipe roll will be published probably next year, with an 1130 A.D. reference to Poindestre.

Email from Membership Secretary of the Royal Pipe Roll Society to Jamie, May 2010

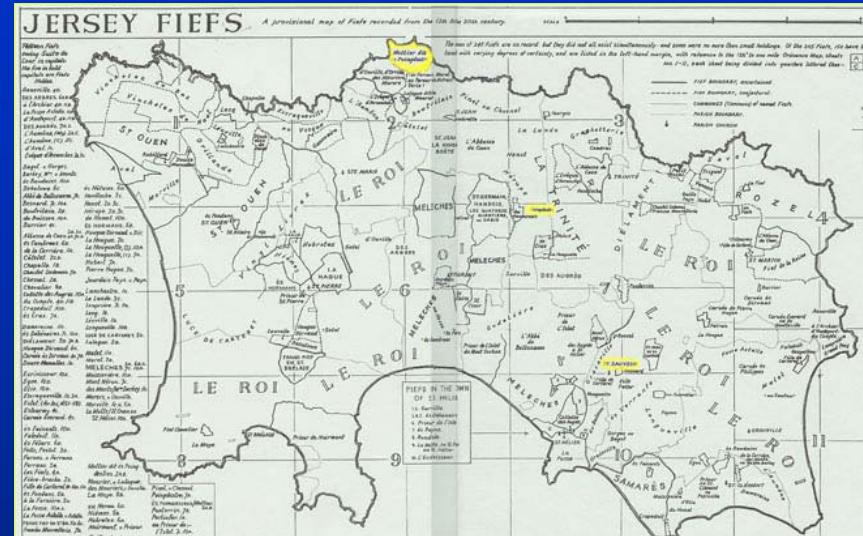
# Poingdestre Records

- According to Landers:
  - Earliest record he found of “Poingdestre in Jersey” was in an archive in St. Lô (Normandy) dated 1250
  - Geoffrey and Raoul Poingdestre are mentioned as land owners in Jersey.
  - Landers does NOT tell us what document or what archive.

*Poingdestre-Poindexter A Norman Family*, John Poindexter Landers, 1977

# Poingdestre Records

- Assize Role of 1309
- Pierre Poingdestre is listed as owning land in St. Clement, Jersey.



Sources:

[www.societe-jersiaise.org/whitsco/balleinenam.htm](http://www.societe-jersiaise.org/whitsco/balleinenam.htm)

Landers book

Other sources

# About the Assize Role of 1309

- Entitlement to rights of old
- Those named are defending their claims:
  - Lands held by ancestors ‘from time immemorial’
  - ‘Natives’ of Jersey
- Crown argued that the landowners rights were ‘only’ from the time of King John
- Legal disputes continue for decades

# About the Assize Role of 1309

## Of those named in 1309

- Originally had land in Normandy and Jersey
- Had family in both locations
- In the 1204 aftermath, their family status had been elevated due to the forfeited lands of the old Norman aristocracy

# About the Assize Role of 1309

- It cannot be proved that the family Poingdestre fit these same characteristics, but being named on the Assize Role is a topic for further investigation.

# Our Lineage Beginnings

- Jean (John) Poingdestre
  - Jurat of the Royal Court of Jersey 1367-1368
  - Landowner in St. Saviours Parrish in Jersey
- Earliest record of Fief es Poingdestres is 1419.
  - Jean Poingdestre (II)
  - Jurat 1382, 1389
  - Baillif if Jersey 1414



# JERSEY FIEFS

A provisional map of Fiefs recorded from the 12th to the 15th century

1114

These Fiefs being parts of the land in which the law is held according to the Fiefs of the King.

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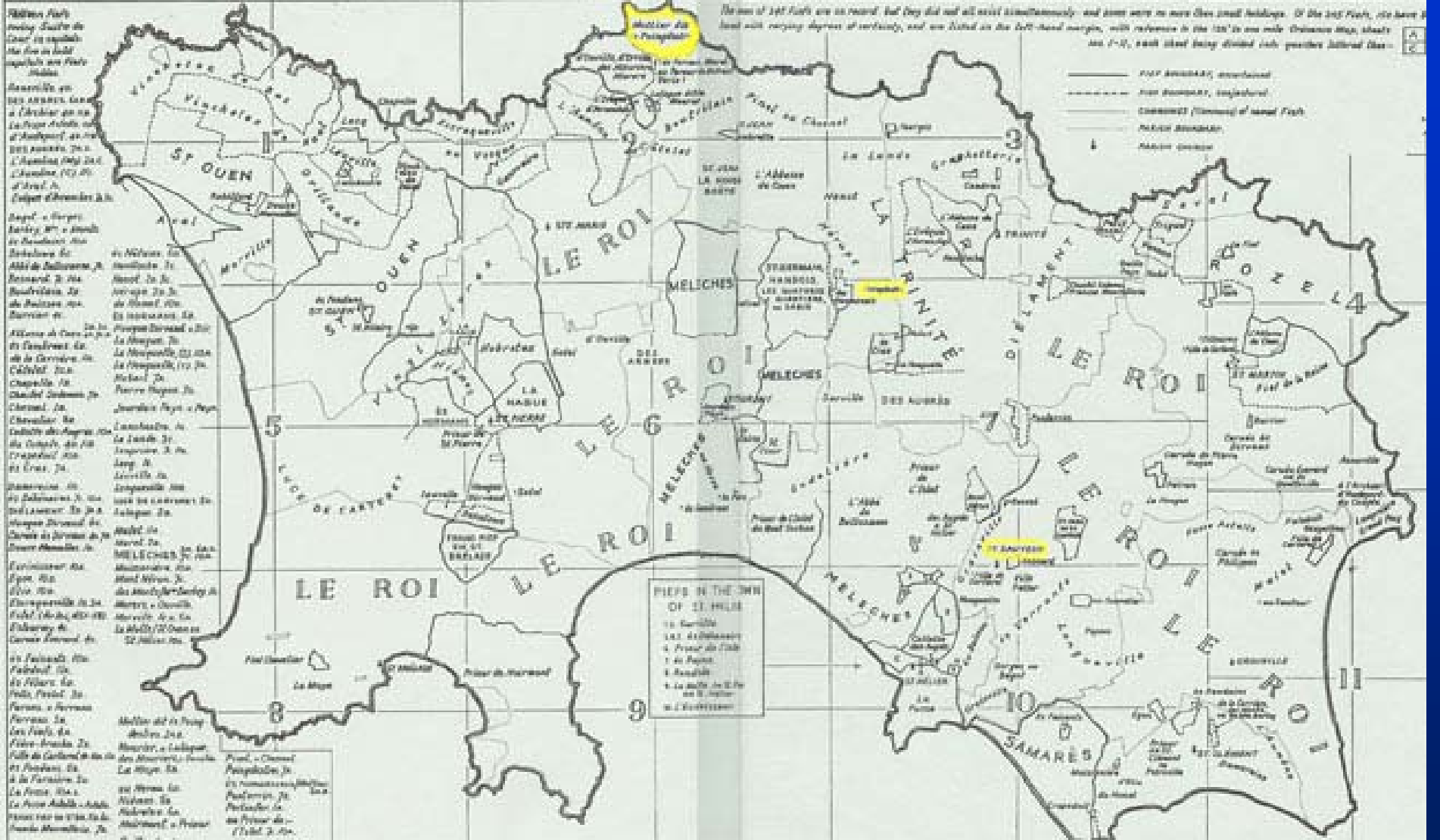
These Fiefs being parts of the land in which the law is held according to the Fiefs of the King.

Names of 147 Fiefs are on record, but they did not all exist simultaneously, and some were no more than small holdings. Of the 147 Fiefs, 116 have a land with varying degrees of certainty, and are listed in the left-hand margin, with reference to the 1127 or 1128 only. Distance map, sheets 100 1-10, each sheet being divided into quarters lettered thus:

- FIFT BOUNDARY, uncoloured
- - - FIFT BOUNDARY, uncoloured
- COMMONS (forming) of several Fiefs
- MARSH BOUNDARY
- MARSH CHANNEL

FIEFS IN THE TOWN OF ST. PIERRE

1. St. Pierre
2. St. Pierre
3. St. Pierre
4. St. Pierre
5. St. Pierre
6. St. Pierre
7. St. Pierre
8. St. Pierre
9. St. Pierre
10. St. Pierre
11. St. Pierre



SOURCE:  
Old Jersey Houses, Vol II, by Joan Stevens, c.1977  
Back inside cover

# Friday the 13th

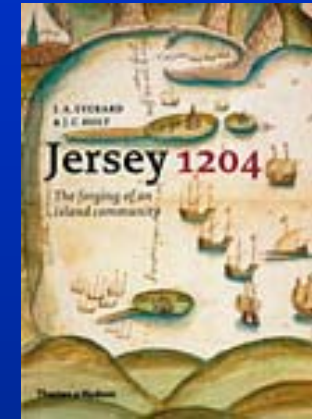
- 1307, October 13<sup>th</sup>
- King Philip owes the Knights Templar money for a war with England.
- Pope Clement V had tried to convince Templars and Hospitaliers to combine two years before.
- Philip convinces Clement the Templars are anti-church.
- Clement allows Philip to arrest and execute Templars.
- Those who got away escaped to English ruled lands.
- Did these knights receive land from the English King?  
Was one a Poingdester?

# Sources and Web Sites

- Jersey 1204-2004 Official website  
<http://www.1204-2004.je/>
- BBC Beyond the Broadcast: Making History
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/beyond/factsheets/makhist/makhist10\\_prog8c.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/beyond/factsheets/makhist/makhist10_prog8c.shtml)
- Kings and Queens of England  
<http://www.royal.gov.uk/output/Page60.asp>

# Further Reading

- Jersey 1204: The forging of an island community; by J.A. Everard and J.C. Holt  
Thames and Hudson, c. 2004  
– [www.poindexterfamily.org/history/publications.html](http://www.poindexterfamily.org/history/publications.html)



Socete Jeriasise members' web pages  
[www.societe-jersiaise.org/\\_pages/\\_members.html](http://www.societe-jersiaise.org/_pages/_members.html)

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# Sources and Further Reading

- <http://www.societe-jersiaise.org/whitsco/wragg47.htm>
- <http://www.societe-jersiaise.org/whitsco/wayne14.htm>