

A LINE OF HEREDITARY VISCOUNTS IN PONTHEIU

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ABSTRACT

Evidence for a line of hereditary viscounts of Abbeville, Pont-Remy and Canchy exists in the cartularies of Ponthieu, Normandy, and Artois in northern France. The evidence points to an origin sometime during the first decades of the 11th century, with suzerainty over parishes and estates scattered between the Bresle and Canche rivers. This article reviews the charter evidence and suggests a possible pedigree.

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The medieval French county of Ponthieu arose in the early 11th century, growing from an advocacy of the Abbey of Saint Riquier created in the late 10th century by Hugh Capet. Its county seat was at Abbeville on the Somme River, midway between Amiens and the mouth of the Somme on the English Channel. The first count, self-styled after defeating the count of Boulogne in battle, was Enguerrand I—son of Hugh of Abbeville, the first advocate.²

The counts and the county of Ponthieu have been well served by historians, notably du Cange, Louandre, Prarond, and Fossier.³ Likewise the viscounties and communes of Ponthieu have been carefully studied.⁴ It is therefore somewhat surprising to find that the personal representatives of the counts, the viscounts, are relatively unknown. This may be due to an assumption by some modern historians that the viscounts of Ponthieu were appointed and not hereditary. Nieuws and others have recently argued this position.⁵ Even so, du Cange — the earliest modern historian of Ponthieu — knew that the viscounts of Abbeville in the 12th century were hereditary. Unfortunately for historical discussion, his notes on these viscounts remained unpublished until 1864, nearly two centuries after his death.⁶

The first record of a viscount in Ponthieu occurs in a Saint Riquier charter issued by King Henri I, which mentions a Godefridus, vicecomes. We will review this and other

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All translations into English in this article are by the author.

² Jean Dunbabin, *France in the Making 843-1180* (2000).

³ Charles de Frese (Sieur du Cange), *Histoire de l'état de la ville d'Amiens et de ses comtes* (1840); François César Louandre, *Histoire d'Abbeville et du comté de Ponthieu jusqu'en 1789* (1847); Ernest Prarond, *Histoire d'Abbeville: Abbeville aux temps de Charles VII, des ducs de Bourgogne Maitres du Ponthieu, de Louis XI* (1899); Ernest Prarond, *Histoire de cinq villes et de trois cents villages, hameaux ou fermes* (1861); Robert Fossier, *La Terre et Les Hommes en Picardie jusqu'à la fin du XIII^e siècle* (1968).

⁴ Augustin Thierry, *Recueil des monuments inédits de l'histoire du Tiers Etat, tome 4* (1870); Robert Fossier, *op. cit.* (1968); Robert Fossier, *Chartes de Coutume en Picardie* (1974); Charles Petit-Dutaillis, *The French Communes in the Middle Ages* (1978).

⁵ Jean-François Nieuws, "Vicomes et Vicomtés dans le Nord de la France (XI^e – XIII^e Siècles): Un Monde D'Officiers au Service de Pouvoir Princier," in *Vicomes et Vicomtés dans l'Occident Médiéval*, ed. Hélène Débax (2008), 291-304.

⁶ Arthur De Marsy, "Les Vicomes d'Abbeville et du Pont-de-Remy—Notice inédite de Charles du Fresne, Sieur du Cange," *Revue Nobiliaire, Héraldique et Biographique* II (1864), 513-7.

charters in constructing a pedigree that connects this viscount Godfrey with the viscounts that du Cange discussed.

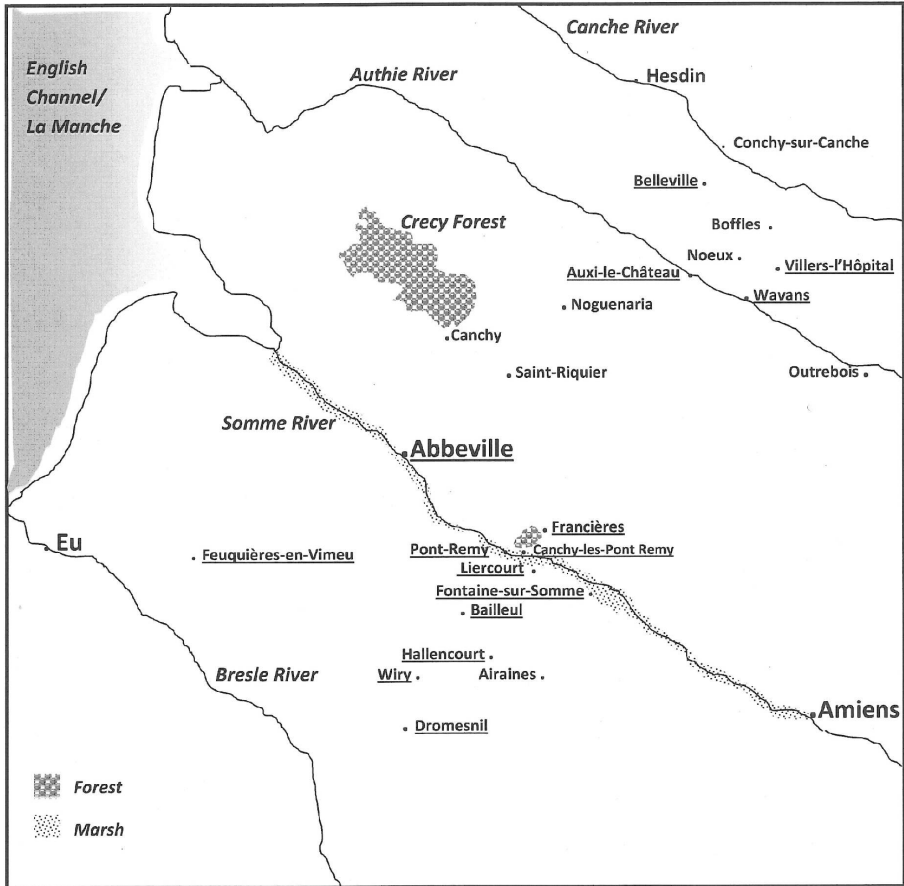


Fig 1. *The county of Ponthieu along the northern coast of France, centered at Abbeville.* Towns whose names are underlined show locations administered by the viscounts of Abbeville, Canchy and Pont-Remy, or held either directly or as suzerain lords. Note: several fiefs of Godfrey II, such as Oursel-Maison (30 km south of Amiens), are off the map.

Charter Evidence

Saint Riquier Cartuary

Four charters from the Abbey of Saint Riquier, as recorded in Hariulphe's *Chronicon Centulense*, mention a Godefridus either as viscount or as one of the count's *fideles*. First is a 1035 charter that resolves a long-running dispute over land at Noyelles-en-Chaussée [*Noguenaria*] in favor of Saint Riquier.

In the name of the holy and indivisible Trinity, Henri by the grace of God king of France, to all sons of the catholic church who take interest in the spiritual and temporal. Be it known to all present and future, the assignment we made to Saint Riquier, for our salvation and that of our successors. A knight, Hubert, enjoyed by usurpation land owned by Saint Riquier, called Noguenaria. His ancestors appropriated, under guise of a donation, everything that they held by precarious title of Saint Riquier. He [Hubert] has invaded the village [Noguenaria] treating it as belonging to him, [but] was for some time resisted by the claims of the abbot and his brothers, and now his [Hubert's] claims are entirely dismissed by a judgment before us. So we kept the land and have enjoyed [the fruits of the land] for five years. At the end of this term, thinking of our salvation, and making representations to the congregation of Centule [Saint Riquier], we have returned [Noguenaria] to the congregation. Count Enguerrand also presented us with a request that we have welcomed, that is, that no new customs, even born now, be introduced into his domains. And so that these provisions are religiously observed by our successors, we have had Hezelin, bishop of Paris, pronounce anathema, supported by all the French who are with us, against any person who would violate this act and compromise our salvation. That is why we by all our authority and that of our bishops defend against any malefactor who usurps the lands of Noguenaria...And so that everyone knows our will, we did write this charter so it could be shown to all. Made in the year of the Incarnation of our Lord 1035, the third year of the reign of king Henri. The abbot Enguerrand [Angelranus] subscribes; the monk Rolland subscribes; Gautier, Algise, Count Enguerrand [Angelranus comes], Hugh his son, viscount Godfrey [Godefridus vicomes], Oylard, Robert all subscribe.

They are all witnesses to the excommunication launched by all the bishops, and in particular by Hezelin, bishop of Paris. Anyone in the future who breaks this charter will be bloody with Datan and Abiron. So be it.⁷

This charter typifies the vigilance of abbeys like Saint Riquier in safeguarding their temporal properties, and the difficulties that they faced in holding on to properties that were often appropriated by local lords. Anathema and excommunication were regular penalties in such charters. It is, of course, because of the record keeping of religious houses that any charters at all have survived from the 11th century. This means that most extant charters deal with topics of interest to these houses, and temporal lords appear only in cases involving land donations to the house or disputes over land claimed by the house.

This fact is also on display in the next charter in which a Godfrey appears. The topic of this charter is a resolution of a dispute over a mill claimed by Saint Riquier, but under the control of a local knight named Regnier:

⁷ Hariulphe et al., *Chronicon Centulense* (1899), 203-4; Hariulphe & Ferdinand Lot, *Chronique de l'abbaye de Saint Riquier (V^e siècle - 1104)* (1894), 192-3.

In the name of the holy and indivisible Trinity, Enguerrand [Angelran] abbot of Centule [Saint Riquier] to the faithful of the holy church, now and to come: Know that a knight, Regnier [Raginerus], has claimed a mill located in Montaigni, and he claimed that it had been given [to him] by us. But, having found his claim without foundation, we considered a new demand on his part, and we have agreed to cede the said mill to him and two of his heirs, namely, to Gautier his son [Gaultero filio ejus] and the son of said Gautier by his legitimate wife, [with the condition] that they pay a [rent] to our abbey [for holding this mill], and so if the said Gautier were to die without allowable children, the abbey would reclaim the property. But if he leaves an heir of a legitimate marriage, he [the heir] will succeed his father and will enjoy the [profits of] the mill for his life; committing to pay during all the years, 4 silver sous [shillings] at the feast of Saint Riquier, which is held on the VII ides of October. On the death of the third heir, we will get back the enjoyment of our property. And so that this treaty remains inviolable, we did sign by our brothers and by our faithful. Signature by Abbot Enguerrand [Abbas Angelrannus], by Enguerrand the advocate [Angelranni advocati], by his son Hugh [the future Count Hugh II], by Oger, by Urson, by Robert, by Herbert, by Guernon, by Rodulf [Rodulfi], by Godfrey [Godefridi], by Arnulf [Arnulfi], by Oylard. Made at the abbey of Centule, the VII calends of February,⁸ the 12th year of the reign of King Henri [January 26, 1043].⁹

The next charter involving a count of Ponthieu in the Saint Riquier cartulary dates from 20 November 1052, the burial day of Count Hugh II, son of Enguerrand I. Count Hugh had just died following a battle, making a deathbed donation to Saint Riquier that his son Enguerrand II now confirmed. Godfrey, a *fidelis* and presumably the viscount, also appears as a signatory to this charter.

In the name of the holy and indivisible Trinity, I Enguerrand [III], count by the grace of God, make it known to all faithful of the church present and future, that Count Hugh, my father, while alive in his final hour, granted in perpetuity, for the salvation of his soul, the village of Portas to the abbey of Saint Riquier, under this clause that none of his successors would require any service large or small, but that it [the village] and all its produce would be at the total service of the brothers of the abbey. For this reason we did write this charter, at the request of Abbot Gervin, and have wished it to be signed by us and our fideles. Signed by Count Enguerrand [Angelranni comitis], by Godfrey [Godefredi], by Oylard [Oylardi], by Robert [Roberti], by Bernard [Bernardi], by Gautier [Gaulteri],¹⁰ by Gérard [Gerardi], by Enguerrand [Ingelranni].

Saint Riquier, the day of the burial of Count Hugh, the XII calends of December, by Enguerrand his son, attended by the lords of his county, and in the presence of the Lord Fulk the bishop, who at the prayer of the brothers and wish of the count, defended [the charter], under penalty of excommunication, against any person who by law or custom, either by force or by suit claims the village.¹¹

⁸ The French transcript of Hariulphe *op. cit.* (1894) gives the date as the 7th calends of October but the Latin transcript of Hariulphe *op. cit.* (1899) provides what we assume is the correct original: the 7th calends of February.

⁹ Hariulphe *et al.*, *op. cit.* (1899), 204-205; Hariulphe & Ferdinand Lot, *op. cit.* (1894), 194.

¹⁰ Guatier 1st, count of Hesdin, a contemporary of Count Enguerrand I of Ponthieu. See: Hariulphe & Ferdinand Lot, *op. cit.* (1894), 231.

¹¹ Hariulphe, *et al.*, *op. cit.* (1899), 242-243; Hariulphe & Ferdinand Lot, *op. cit.* (1894), 230-1.

Godfrey appears for a final time as a signatory to a charter of Saint Riquier in 1067, in a charter of Count Guy, the brother and heir of Enguerrand II.

In the name of the holy and indivisible Trinity, I, Guy, count of Ponthieu, at the priory of the Lord Abbot Gervin, [with] the consent of the lords of my province, in the presence of King Philip [and] the marquis Baldwin and the princes of the king's palace, I give to Saint Riquier one quarter of the land known as d'Ultraboiz;¹² and in addition I give to Saint Riquier, the abbot and monks, to enjoy in perpetuity from the revenues of my advocacy here on this Earth 20 pounds silver money and 50 horses for the brothers. As for Robert, who once received from me the aforesaid land, and for any other person who could claim some portion of this land, I promise to give any satisfaction to the abbey of Centule [Saint Riquier]. And so that this agreement remains stable and permanent, it was confirmed in the hands of the king, and on the designated day, according to their rank, the witnesses in attendance signed: Baldwin the young count [Balduini juvenis comitis], Frederick [Frederici], Baldric [Baldrici], Rodulf [Rodulfi], Roricon [Roriconis], Anschu (or Auschu) [Ansheri], Oylard [Oylardi], Godfrey [Godefridi], Richogaurd [Richoguardi], Abbot Gervin [abbatis Gervini], Ingelot the dean [Ingeleri tunc temporis decani], Saxogel [Saxoguali], Gautier (French)/Walter (English) [Walterii], Odo the knight [Odonis militis], Dudilon [Dudilonis], Boson [Bosonis]. Made in the 7th year of the reign of King Philip, 1067 of the incarnation of our Lord, indiction VI, epoch III, concurrents VII. Let he who would break the above agreement, [made before] God and holy Mary the Mother of God and all the saints, be cursed and excommunicated. Fiat, Fiat. That is the charter.¹³

The next charter for a viscount Godfrey appears in 1076 in the cartulary of the Abbey of Bec in northern Normandy.

Cartulary of the Abbey of Bec

In 1076, a Godfrey, viscount of Canchy, issued a charter founding a priory of the abbey of Bec in the church of Saint-Pierre at Canchy, in Ponthieu. The abbey of Bec, at Bec-Helouin in northern Normandy, had been established in about 1039 by Herluin, a Norman knight who left the court of Gilbert, count of Brionne and Eu, to devote himself to a life of religious contemplation. The abbey, renowned for its scholars, was particularly influential during the 11th and 12th centuries, producing two archbishops of Canterbury and one pope, Alexander II. The dukes of Normandy and the kings of France were notable patrons.

The 1076 donation was the first foundation of a religious house connected to Bec—the only one during abbot Herluin's life. Viscount Godfrey gave to the abbey the church of Saint-Pierre de Canchy with all its dependencies and other lands. In 1141, Garin, bishop of Amiens, confirmed viscount Godfrey's donation, recapitulating the details of what had been given, with mention of a more recent gift by Eustache, the heir of Godfrey:

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen. Garin, by the grace of God, humble bishop of Amiens, and son of Holy Church, now and in the future, eternal salvation in the Lord. We wish you to know that Godfrey, former viscount of Canchy, with the advice and

¹² Outrelbois or Outrebois, in the canton of Bernaville, just west of Doullens.

¹³ Hariulphe *et al.*, *op. cit.* (1899), 247-248; Hariulphe & Ferdinand Lot, *op. cit.* (1894), 236-37.

consent of Fulk, bishop of Amiens,¹⁴ and of the Amiens cathedral chapter, had given to the Church what he himself had built in Canchy, as the old titles show, all the parishes that he possessed by inherited right, although secular, with the tithes, lands, and other things that follow: he gave arable land, a brewery, both parts of the full tithe and the church of Villers with its dependencies, and a carucate of arable land, the Forest chapel, half of the parish of Feurenc, the parish of Dromesnil, the parish of Oursel-Maison [Ursionscurte], the third part of the parish of Wansy, two parts of the tithe that belongs to the parish of Folceriis, the parish of Guibermesnil, the tithe of goods of the church of Warank with its dependencies, half of the tithe goods of the church of Bailleul [de Valleolis], half of the tithe goods of the church of Fontaine with its dependencies, the tithe goods of the church of Cordonoit. From our time, the present heir of viscount Godfrey, Eustache, gave to the church of Canchy, for food for the monks who serve God, all that is enclosed in the courtyard and ditches to his former château, i.e. an oven, an orchard, and gardens. We concede to the church of Saint-Pierre de Canchy and to the abbey of Bec, and confirm by our episcopal authority everything recorded in this charter, and we forbid anyone to take away, distract or reduce anything, under penalty of anathema.¹⁵

The lands in this charter—the endowment of what became the Priory of Canchy-les-Pont-de-Remy—range across Ponthieu, from Dromesnil in Vimeu in southern Ponthieu to Villers (later Villers-l’Hôpital) north of the Authie River.

Cartulary of the Priory of Saint-Georges d’Hesdin

The cartulary of the Priory of Saint George at Hesdin, along the Canche River in the Pas-de-Calais, mentions a Godfrey who was viscount of Wavans [*Godefrido vicecomite prefati opidi, Wavanz videlicet*] in a charter by which Godard de Wavans [*Godardi de Wavanz*] grants land at Belleville [*Bellevilla*] to the priory. Godfrey, as Godard’s lord, confirmed the charter. The list of witnesses as provided by Fossier begins with Godfrey and his uncle Saswalo [*Godefridus, Sasvualo avunculus ejus*]. Other witnesses include *Alelmus de Demencecort, Balduinus frater ejus, Engelhardus de Sancto Furseo, Wibertus de Vuavanz, Odilo de Vauvanz, Ilbertus de Dorlenz, Ansfridus, Henricus de Fevrenz, Balduinus de Noez, Hugo de Boneriis, Wericus, Radulfus, Paganus de Haravenis*. This charter (number 179 in Fossier) is dated to 1112-1130 based upon the known dates for another man mentioned in the charter, Alvius, abbot of Anchin.¹⁶

Another charter by which Hugo de Cresci donated land at Bofles, near Wavans, to the priory was attested by a viscount Eustache with Bernard his brother [*Eustachio vicecomite, Bernardo, frate ejus*], and by *Hugone de Sancto Hilario, Alelmo ejusque fratre, Balduino de Demencecurth, Dodilone de Gamarcham, Hoilardo, Rorgone*. This charter (number 121 in Fossier) is undated, but Fossier has broadly dated the entries in the cartulary to 1090-1180.¹⁷

¹⁴ This would be Folque or Fulk III, elected bishop of Amiens in 1076 but not consecrated. Fulk III has been confused with bishop Fulk II (1036-1058) in some of the recent literature with regard to this charter. See, for example, Heather J. Tanner, *Families, Friends, and Allies: Boulogne and Politics in Northern France and England, c.879-1160* (2004), 123.

¹⁵ Adolphe André Poreé, *Histoire de l’abbaye du Bec*, tome I (1901), 384-5.

¹⁶ Robert Fossier *Cartulaire Chronique du Prieuré Saint-Georges d’Hesdin* (1988), 119-120.

¹⁷ Robert Fossier, *op. cit.* (1988), 7 & 91.

A third charter, also undated (number 95 in Fossier), records a donation of land in Belleville [*Belevilla*] by *Pagano de Vuavans*. Eustache and Bernard, his brother, who hold the land of Belleville [*Eustachius et Bernardus, frater ejus, a quibus ipse terram de Belevilla in feodum tenebat*], assent to this donation in the presence of witnesses: *Savvalo, Godardus, Bernardus de Nuz, Walo de Buscoith, Petrus de Sancto Paulo, Ursio, Wilbertus de Vuavanz, Balduinus de Vauvenel, Wibertus de Vilers, Aaron, Gozo de Cocherel, Robertus filius Vuarmundi*.¹⁸

The repetition of names in these charters suggests some degree of connection between viscounts Godfrey and Eustache. In charter 179, with viscount Godfrey, there are *Sasualo* his uncle, *Godardi de Wavanz, Alelmus de Demencecurt* and his brother *Balduinus, Wilbertus de Vuavanz*, and *Balduinus de Noez*. In charter 95 there are the brothers Eustache and Bernard, *Savvalo, Godardus, Bernardus de Nuz*, and *Wilbertus de Vuavanz*. Charter 121 mentions viscount Eustache, Bernard his brother, and *Baldrino de Demencecurt*. *Wavanz/Vuavanz* is the modern day Wavans on the Authie River. *Nuz/Noez* (Noeux), *Belevilla* (Belleville), and *Vilers/Villers* (Villers-l'Hôpital) lie within a few miles of Wavans.

Charters of Count Guy I of Ponthieu (1053 - 1100)

Brunel's *Recueil des Actes des Comtes de Pontieu (1026-1279)* records four charters which mention a *Godefrido vicecomite*: one dated only to within 1053-1100, and three from 1100, during the last months of count Guy I of Ponthieu.

Charters VIII and IX of Brunel, two of the three from 1100, are endowment charters for the church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Abbeville, a priory of Cluny Abbey. Charter IX, dated March 25 to October 13 1100, records that Godfrey, viscount of Abbeville, and his wife Eustachia gave one tenth of what they held in Auxi-le-Château [*Godefridus vicecomes de Abbatisvilla, et uxor ejus Eusachia, decimam quam habeant in eadem villa de Alci*].¹⁹ An Ilbert de Doullens [*Ilbertus de Durlens*] also made a grant. In signing the charter, viscount Godfrey made an additional donation of a meadow, free and clear of all fees and customs, in the borough of Vimeu outside the gates of Abbeville [*Godefredus vicecomes dedit partum extra portam Abbaville in burgo Vimaci liberum ab omni consuetudine*].²⁰ Charter VIII, dated October 6 (one week before the death of count Guy), appears to recapitulate many of the donations of charter IX: Ilbert de Doullens grants the same, and *Godefridus vicomes de Abbatisvilla et uxor ejus, decimam quam tenebat in prefato Altiaco*. Viscount Godfrey appears in the signature list as *Joffredi*.²¹

In charter XI, dated at Rue sometime between March 25 and October 13 1100, count Guy gives up all rights, both banal and judicial, over the goods of the community of Saint-Sauve in Montreuil. In abandoning his judicial and banal rights, count Guy was removing his representative, the viscount of Abbeville (Godfrey), and giving Saint-Suave the freedom to appoint its own viscount or sergeant. Among the signatories are *Godefridi vicecomitis* and *Waszelini, tunc temporis vicecomitis et ville Rue*.²²

The remaining charter, dated broadly to 1053-1100 (number XIV in Brunel), records a grant by Aleaume, surnamed Costard [*Adelelmus nomine, sed Costardus dictus*

¹⁸ Robert Fossier, *op. cit.* (1988), 79.

¹⁹ Clovis Brunel *Recueil des Actes des Comtes de Pontieu (1026-1279)* (1930), 18, lines 8-10.

²⁰ Clovis Brunel, *op. cit.* (1930), 19, lines 24-5.

²¹ Clovis Brunel, *op. cit.* (1930), 13, lines 9-10, & 14, line 23.

²² Clovis Brunel, *op. cit.* (1930), 21-3.

cognomina] of lands at Villers and Douriez made to the Abbey of Marmoutier. Viscount Godfrey is third on the list of signatories, after *Hansherio* and *Hugone Sennerio de Sancto Richario* [seneschal of Saint Riquier].²³

12th - 13th Century Charters

The appearance in 1100 of viscount Godfrey and his wife Eustachia in the Abbeville endowment charters foreshadows an increasing number of charters during the 12th and 13th centuries which mention viscounts named Godfrey or Eustache. A brief enumeration of some of these charters will aid us in constructing a tentative pedigree for the descendants of viscount Godfrey (1035):

- 1140—an exchange of lands, both farm and forest, in Pont-Remy between the lord of Pont-Remy and the Priory of Canchy-les-Pont-Remy.²⁴
- 1141—as already mentioned, Eustache, viscount of Canchy, augments the donation of his ancestor Godfrey, viscount of Canchy, by granting his old château at Pont-Remy to the Priory of Canchy-les-Pont-Remy.²⁵
- 1152-1153—Eustache, viscount of Canchy, witnesses an accord negotiated by count Jean of Ponthieu between the canons of Saint-Vulfran and the monks of Saint-Pierre of Abbeville.²⁶
- 1156-1159—Eustache, viscount of Canchy, witnesses a charter in which count Jean of Ponthieu donates Mont du Tuales to the brothers of the Val de Buigny leprosarium.²⁷
- 1163—an agreement between Eustache, viscount of Pont-Remy, over the tithes of Canchy and Pont-Remy, with the count of Ponthieu, the count's brother, and the chapter of Saint Vulfran.²⁸
- 1172—Godfrey, viscount of Canchy, in front of Thibaut, bishop of Amiens, confirms his father Eustache's grant of land in Villers l'Hôpital to the brothers of the Hospital of Saint John, made as Eustache joined the brothers.²⁹
- 1184—Eustache, viscount of Pont-Remy, and his son Godfrey [*Eustachius, vicecomes de Ponte Sancti Remigii; Godefridus, filius ejus*] witness the confirmation of a communal charter to Abbeville by count Jean of Ponthieu.³⁰
- 1187-1188—Eustache, viscount of Pont-Remy, witnesses a charter of count Jean granting the *cens* for a house in Abbeville to Hugues Le Baron.³¹

²³ Clovis Brunel, *op. cit.* (1930), 27.

²⁴ Baron de Brécourt, "Passages de la Somme entre Pont-Remy et Liercourt de L'Epoque Romain au XIII^e siècle" *Bulletin de la Société D'Émulation D'Abbeville, tome X* (1918), 319-327, in particular note 1 on page 326 which references the Chartrier du Château de Pont-Remy.

²⁵ Adolphe André Poreé, *op. cit.* (1901), 384-5.

²⁶ Clovis Brunel, *op. cit.* (1930), 73-4, charter XLVIII.

²⁷ Clovis Brunel, *op. cit.* (1930), 89-91, charter LX.

²⁸ Arthur De Marsy, *op. cit.* (1864).

²⁹ Hippolyte Cocheris, *Notices et Extraits des Documents Manuscrits Conservés dans les Dépôts Publics de Paris, et Relatifs à L'histoire de aa Picardie*, tome 2 (1859), 138-139. Part of item 560, the *Premier cartulaire de Fieffes*.

³⁰ Clovis Brunel, *op. cit.* (1930), 157-166, charter CLX.

³¹ Clovis Brunel, *op. cit.* (1930), 182, charter CXVIII.

- 1187-1189—Eustache, viscount of Canchy, and his son Godfrey, viscount of Pont-Remy, grant the full tithe of Le Queste (a fief near Pont-Remy) to the Priory of Canchy-les-Pont-Remy.³²
- 1189-1190—Eustache, viscount of Canchy, donates the communal oven of Rohalt, in the borough of Vimeu [*meum furnum qui vocatur Rohalt qui est in burgo Vimacensi*], with the assent of his son Godfrey, to the Priory of St. Peter and St. Paul at Abbeville. Viscount Eustache, suffering from a mortal illness, also takes the religious habit of the priory.³³
- 1194—Aleaume de Canchy, chevalier and brother to viscount Godfrey, appears as a juré d'Abbeville.³⁴
- 1199—Godfrey, viscount of Pont-Remy, witnesses the grant of a communal charter by count Guillaume III of Ponthieu to Marquenterre in Vimeu.³⁵
- 1200—Godfrey, viscount of Pont-Remy, son of Eustache [*Godefridum fillum Eustachii de Cancheio*] at the close of a dispute over the tithe of Queste, grants land in the forest of Tronchée to the Priory of Canchy-les-Pont-Remy.³⁶
- 1206—Godfrey, viscount of Canchy, with the consent of his son Eustache, grants property in Abbeville to Girard de Flandre. Witnesses include: Aleaume, chevalier, brother of the viscount; Henri de Gamercamp; Robert de Dun; Guy Le Sénéchal; and the échevins and jurés of Abbeville.³⁷
- 1230—Eustache, viscount of Pont-Remy, provides a commitment to take party against the count of Ponthieu in cases where the latter does not fulfill his commitment to the King of France.³⁸
- 1239—Eustache, lord of Pont-Remy, confirms the donation of Pierre de Beauchien to the monks of Canchy and warrants this gift against the claims of his son Enguerrand.³⁹
- 1241—Enguerrand, viscount of Pont-Remy, confirms the tithe of Le Queste to the abbey of Bec.⁴⁰
- 1244—the charter by which the count & countess of Ponthieu sold their rights north of the Authie river to Robert, count of Artois. The first two items in the list are 1) a fief in Artois held of them by the count of Saint Pol; and

³² Adolphe André Poreé, *op. cit.* (1901), 386.

³³ Ernest Prarond, *op. cit.* (1894), p.46; Ernest Prarond, *La topograpie historique et archéologique d'Abbeville, tome 3* (1884), 426—quoting Jacques Sanson (le père Ignace de Jesus-Maria), *L'histoire généalogique des comtes de Ponthieu* (1657), 73.

³⁴ Louis Eugène de La Gorgue-Rosny, *Recherches Généalogiques sur les Comtés de Ponthieu, de Boulogne, de Guines et Pays Circonvoisins, tome I* (1874), 322.

³⁵ Augustin Thierry, *op. cit.* (1870), 613-4.

³⁶ Adolphe André Poreé, *op. cit.* (1901), 386-7.

³⁷ Louis Eugène de La Gorgue-Rosny, *Recherches Généalogiques sur les Comtés de Ponthieu, de Boulogne, de Guines et Pays Circonvoisins—Documents Inédits* (1877), 42.

³⁸ Alexandre Teulet, *Layettes du Trésor des Chartes, tome II* (1866), 196, item 2098.

³⁹ Adolphe André Poreé, *Histoire de l'abbaye du Bec, tome II* (1901), 100-1.

⁴⁰ Adolphe André Poreé, *Histoire de l'abbaye du Bec, tome I* (1901), 387.

2) a fief of the viscount of Pont-Remy which holds the homage of the lord of Wavans for lands held from the Authie north to near Hesdin.⁴¹

- 1256—a settlement between the viscount of Pont-Remy and the men of Duncq (across the Somme from Pont Remy, near Liercourt) regarding use of the marsh of Pont Remy.⁴²
- 1260—Enguerrand, viscount of Pont Remy, is one of 10 knights signing a letter to the king in an issue of rights between the commune of Saint Riquier and the abbey.⁴³
- 1274—Enguerrand, viscount of Abbeville and lord of Pont-Remy [...ngerrani vicecom. Abb...ville dni Pon...] ratifies the sale of the tithes of Wavans.⁴⁴

Interpreting the Evidence to Develop a Pedigree

Viscount Godfrey of Wavans

The foundation charter for the Priory of Canchy-les-Pont-Remy shows that viscount Godfrey (1076) possessed estates north of the Authie River, near Wavans and further north. The appearance of a Godfrey, viscount of Wavans, in the Saint-Georges d'Hesdin cartulary demonstrates suzerainty over this same area, and it is reasonable to identify viscount Godfrey of Wavans (c. 1112-1130) with the viscount Godfrey of Abbeville who donated part of the nearby Auxi-le-Château in 1100.

Following this line of thought, the viscount Eustache mentioned with his brother Bernard in the Saint-Georges d'Hesdin cartulary would be identical to viscount Eustache (1141). Viscount Eustache (1141) is called the heir of the earlier viscount Godfrey (1076), and perhaps we should not read too much into the circumstance that Eustache is not called the son of viscount Godfrey (1076). Considering the limited evidence, we will assume that viscount Eustache (1141) is the grandson of viscount Godfrey (1076).⁴⁵

There is no known connection between viscount Eustache (of Wavans) and Eustache, viscount of Merck, who witnessed an 1121 charter of Eustache II of Boulogne and his wife Ida.⁴⁶

Viscounts Godfrey I, II and III and their descendants

Determining how many viscounts named Godfrey are represented in the charters between 1035 and c.1120 must begin with a consideration of the first. For the viscount of 1035, a birth year later than 1010 is unlikely given that count Enguerrand

⁴¹ Ernest Prarond, *op. cit.* (1899), 117.

⁴² Ernest Prarond, *op. cit.* (1861), 247-9.

⁴³ Jules Hénoque, *Histoire de l'abbaye et de la ville de Saint-Riquier*, tome I (1880), 529.

⁴⁴ René Belleval, *Les Sceaux du Ponthieu* (1896), 219, item 581.

⁴⁵ Constraints on ordering generations follow from the apparent length of viscount Eustache's life (c.85 years), emphasized by the short appearance of his heir in the public record—succeeding as he did at an older age than normal. The birth of Eustache c.1090-1100 would seem to require that his putative father, viscount Godfrey (1100), is not the same Godfrey, viscount of Canchy, who appears in 1076.

⁴⁶ Jean-Amis Courtois & J. Delmotte, "Rapport sur les Fouilles Faites au Mouflon," *Mémoires de la Société des antiquaires de la Morinie*, tome XIII (1850), 577.

I was an old man at his death in 1045. Would he have chosen a man more than a generation his junior as his next-in-command, especially with experienced men among older *fideles*? What is, at minimum, a hundred-year span—c. 1010 to 1120—could easily cross three generations: Godfrey I, II, and III.

In this picture, viscount Godfrey of 1035 (Godfrey I) would have been born sometime during 970-1010 and likely have died during 1040-1060.⁴⁷⁻⁴⁸ It's possible that he died toward the earlier part of this range, *i.e.*, before the 1043 charter. The witness lists in the 1035 and 1052 charters have the same first three *fideles* (*Godefridus*, *Oylardus*, *Robertus*), but the 1043 charter has a much different order of witnesses: *Odelgeri*, *Ursonis*, *Roberti*, *Herberti*, *Guernonis*, *Rodulfi*, *Godefridi*, *Arnulfi*, *Oylardi*. The Godfrey of 1043 does not appear to have the rank or seniority of 1035, yet both charters were issued during the time of count Enguerrand I. This might mean that Godfrey I had died by early 1043, when his heir, and assumed son, Godfrey II would have signed. In this case, the birth year of Godfrey II would need to be 1020 or earlier, pushing the birth year of Godfrey I towards 1000 or earlier.

This division of dates between Godfrey I and II rests on the available evidence, slight though it is. Extending this picture, Godfrey II is the assumed signatory on the 1067 Saint Riquier charter and the founder of the Priory of Canchy-les-Pont-Remy in 1076. Godfrey III is assumed to be the 1100 viscount of Abbeville and the viscount of Wavans (c.1020).⁴⁹ In partitioning these generations, we are assuming that Godfrey I lived c.1000-c.1040, that Godfrey II lived c.1020-c.1080, and that Godfrey III lived c.1050-c.1020. Heirs were named for their paternal grandfathers, following a common practice.

Eustachia, wife of Godfrey III, viscount of Abbeville, appears to have introduced the name of Eustache into subsequent generations. The name of her son (Eustache), and her own name, point to some connection to the house of Boulogne. The eminence of the counts of Boulogne would provide sufficient motivation to introduce a name from the maternal side, again a practice common to the time.

Eustache I, son of Godfrey III, viscount of Abbeville, by Eustachia, would be the viscount of Wavans, brother of Bernard (*Bernardus*) and nephew of Saswalo. He would be the Eustache, viscount of Canchy in 1141, who confirmed the donations of his grandfather (Godfrey II, viscount of Canchy) to the Priory of Canchy-les-Pont Remy. Given the possible family connections of his mother and her inheritance, it is interesting to note that the counts of Boulogne held property at Halunmesnil and Frevent in Artois—areas on the north boundary of the *mouvance* of the viscount of Wavans.⁵⁰

Viscount Eustache I appears to have lived to an extreme age, if we assume he was born c.1080-1100. He put on the religious habit of the Hospitallers in 1170 or 1171, and was dead before 1172. His heir, Godfrey (IV), appears only once in a charter of 1172 and survived his father by less than a decade. The grandson of Eustache I, Eustache (II), had succeeded Godfrey IV by 1184, when Eustache II signs the Abbeville communal charter with his son Godfrey (V). Like his father, Eustache II

⁴⁷ Frank Barlow, *The Carmen de Hastigae Proelio of Guy Bishop of Amiens* (1999), xlv.

⁴⁸ Ferdinand Lot, "Nouvelles recherches sur le texte de la Chronique de l'abbaye de Saint-Riquier par Hariulf," *Bibliothèque de l'école des chartes*, tome 72 (1911), 245-270. He is possibly the viscount Godfrey listed in Obituaire de Saint-Riquier: "III. Id. Sept. Ob. Godefridus vicecomes."

⁴⁹ Adolphe André Poreé, *Histoire de l'abbaye du Bec*, tome I (1901), 387.

⁵⁰ Heather J. Tanner, *op. cit.* (2004), xvi (map).

served as viscount for only a decade or so, and was dead before 1192. Godfrey V was of age by 1187-89 when he appears as viscount of Pont Remy with his father Eustache II, viscount of Canchy.

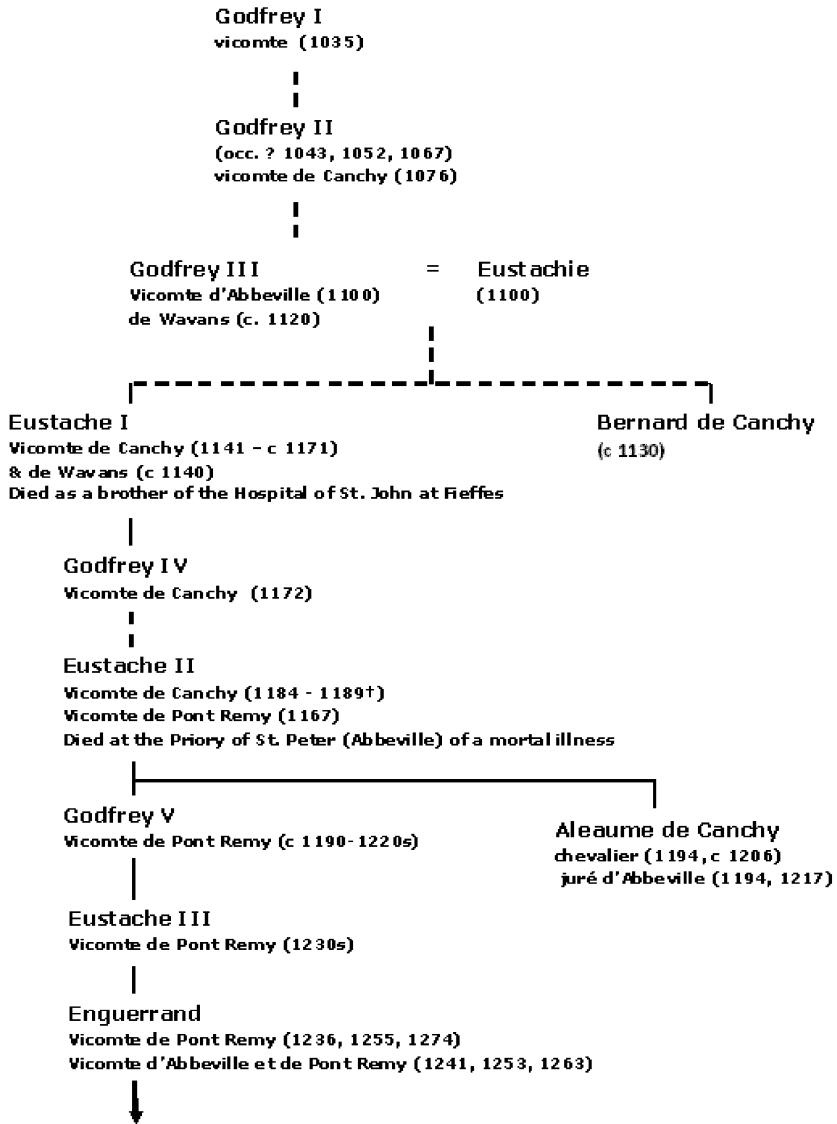


Fig 2. A tentative pedigree for the viscounts of Abbeville, Pont-Remy and Canchy.

The transition from Godfrey IV (c.1115 – c.1183) to viscount Eustache II (c.1140–c.1190) is circumstantial: no charter other than the Hospitallers charter of 1172 has been found to strengthen this link. Godfrey V appears in the record from 1184 until at least 1206, with several mentions of his son Eustache (III) and his brother Aleaume. The son of Godfrey V, Eustache III, first appears in the record in an Abbeville property transfer in 1206. Eustache III is recorded as viscount of Pont-Remy from 1230 until 1239; he had died by 1241 when his son Enguerrand is styled viscount of Pont-Remy. Enguerrand was of age by 1236 and he held the title of viscount of Pont-Remy from 1241 until at least 1274.

Viscount Eustache I and his descendants continued to hold suzerainty over lands north of the Authie and were still styling themselves viscounts of Abbeville up to the time of the English tenure of Ponthieu under King Edward I. The center of their power was at Pont-Remy, and it was as viscount of Abbeville and lord of Pont-Remy that Enguerrand—son of Eustache III—signed himself on charters. The old title, viscount of Canchy, is last seen as an echo in the early 1200s, overlaid by the more powerful viscounty of Pont-Remy.

La Vicomté de Canchy

Given the title viscount of Canchy, it is reasonable to assume that there was, at least in the 11th and 12th centuries, a village named Canchy. Today, a village of this name lies 10 km north of Abbeville, near the southeast boundary of Crecy Forest. But this Canchy, which possesses a church dedicated to Saint Peter, had its church granted to the Abbey of Saint-Achuel in the 1140s by Garin, Bishop of Amiens.⁵¹ Though it is possible that the Abbey of Bec transferred its priory (founded 1076) at Saint-Pierre de Canchy to a new location on the Somme near Pont-Remy through land transfers, there is no evidence to support this.⁵²

We are led, as an alternative, to assume that there was a village of Canchy in the 11th century along the Somme, just east of the bridge of Saint-Remy [Pont-de-Saint-Remigius = Pont-Remy]. This now-lost village would have been on the marshy north bank of the Somme, at the site of the Priory of Canchy-lès-Pont-Remy east of the bridge. The 1076 charter in the Abbey of Bec cartulary refers only, in bishop Garin's 1141 recapitulation, to the church of Saint-Pierre de Canchy, with no elaboration.⁵³ We must look elsewhere for circumstantial evidence to support this alternative.

Brécourt quotes notes by du Maisniel on evidence for an earlier bridge further east, upstream from the modern bridge at Pont-Remy.⁵⁴ This ancient bridge was located at the cemetery of the Priory of Canchy-lès-Pont-Remy. Brécourt also describes the remains of a defensive motte that was evident in 1918 at this location—a motte that would seem to pertain to the old château that viscount Eustache granted the priory in

⁵¹ Joseph Roux, *Histoire de l'abbaye de Saint-Acheul-lez-Amiens: étude de son temporel au Point de Vue Économique*, tome 2 (1890), 337.

⁵² Baron de Brécourt, *op. cit.* (1918), 326. Brécourt had reviewed the Chartrier du Château de Pont-Remy which describes just such a transfer in 1140 between the viscount of Pont-Remy and the prior of Canchy-lès-Pont-Remy: the viscount gives “...*ten parcels of arable land, as many meadows and twenty parcels of woodland, at la Tronqué, provided that the prior will give the lord everything that the priory has at Pont-de-Remy.*” If this was part of a larger consolidation, strengthening the new château at Pont-Remy, no evidence has yet come to light.

⁵³ Adolphe André Poreé, *op. cit.* (1901), 384.

⁵⁴ Baron de Brécourt, *op. cit.* (1918), 323.

1141. The site of the priory is today part of Pont-Remy but was separate in the 11th and 12th centuries—as we can surmise from the settlement of a dispute in 1255 between the viscount of Pont-Remy and the citizens of Duncq, a village on the south bank of the Somme across from Pont-Remy.⁵⁵ The viscount had reclaimed marshland along the north bank to construct houses along the road linking the priory to Pont-Remy, infringing on the right of the men of Duncq to use the marsh.

The more fundamental question of why a village named Canchy should exist along the Somme has been studied by Le Bourdellès.⁵⁶ His investigation of place-names in northern France argues that “canche” or “canchy” identifies a celtic geographical name linked to the curves and meanderings of a river, marshy areas in particular. The Somme in the area of Pont-Remy has for centuries shown exactly this character, and it is plausible that a village of Canchy would exist near Pont-Remy.

The circumstantial evidence, though slight, does support our alternative idea, that Canchy developed into Canchy-lès-Pont-Remy, as Pont-Remy grew to envelope the smaller village—even as the priory developed and gained additional land in the vicinity. By the early 13th century, the older title of viscount of Canchy had been subsumed within that of Pont-Remy.

Conclusion

The evidence we have outlined supports the existence of an hereditary line of viscounts, possibly the senior line, in Ponthieu, with interests in lands across the county. In arguing this, we must note that some recent historians appear to have neglected this pattern. This may be due, in part, to repeated confusion over several similarly named locations: Canchy-lès-Pont-Remy, Canchy near Crecy, and Conchy-sur-Canche.⁵⁷ We think the side-by-side presentation of the charters of Saint-Riquier, Bec, and Saint-Georges, along with those of Ponthieu, makes a strong circumstantial case for the line of viscounts tentatively outlined in Figure 2. For 200 years names change following a regular rule, between Godfrey (G) and Eustache (E): G-G-G-E-G-E-G-E.

We conclude with one observation and one question:

The observation regards a possible origin of the name of Godfrey in this line. Hariulphe, in Liber III, Caput III, of his history of the Abbey of Saint-Riquier, quotes a list of those who held benefices of the abbey in the mid-9th century. These noble retainers were charged with defending the abbey against all enemies, whether they came by land or sea. Of the 99 men listed, only one bore the name Godefridus.⁵⁸

The question: What connection might Eustachia, wife of Godfrey III, have to the house of Bolougne? The marriage of count Enguerrand I with the widow of count Baldwin I of Boulogne (c.1024) introduced a connection between the houses of

⁵⁵ Ernest Prarond, *op. cit.* (1861), 248-249.

⁵⁶ Hubert Le Bourdellès, *Boulogne et Thérouanne au temps de César: approche toponymique de la cité des Morins* (2009), 55-58.

⁵⁷ Robert Fossier *op. cit.* (1968 and 1988), persistently identifies the viscounts of Canchy as seated at Conchy-sur-Canche, thereby missing the charter signals from the Abbey of Bec and Ponthieu. This misidentification was incorporated in Tanner (2004), see page 76. Nieuws (2008), page 303, has recently corrected Fossier (1988) on this point.

⁵⁸ Hariulphe & Ferdinand Lot, *op. cit.* (1894), 96-97.

Ponthieu and Boulogne.⁵⁹ Could the viscount of Abbeville (1100) have married into a cadet line of Boulogne?

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⁵⁹ Frank Barlow, *op. cit.* (1999), xliii.

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