

## **Chapter 1 – ANJOU**

The House of Anjou, later known as the Angevins, appeared first during the early part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Century as part of the ruling classes, in the heart of what is now France. Under the later family name of Plantagenet, they went on to rule England, Wales, Ireland and, for a time, more than half of today's France (see map opposite).

### **Tertulle of the Gâtinais (821-870)**

Like so many histories of the early middle ages, the story of the House of Anjou begins with a legend. According to this story, Tertulle was the son of Tortulf, who was made royal forester at Limelles, near Angers, by Charles the Bald (823-877), King of West Francia.

Tertulle, who was given the title 'The Man of the Woods', acquired a reputation similar to that of Robin Hood in England, although he probably was not an outlaw at any time. He was, however, someone with an army or a militia and he provided substantial military assistance to Charles in his campaigns.

In return, he received Chateau-Landon, 60 kilometres north of Orléans in the Gâtinais; in 850 he was recorded as 'Sénéchal du Gâtinais'. But, contrary to some claims, he probably did not have any other title.

Charles may also have arranged for him to marry Petronille of Auxerre (825-919). Her father was Conrad I (805-862), Count of Auxerre and a member of the powerful Altdorf family from Bavaria. Her mother was Adelaide of Tours (805-882), daughter of the equally powerful but subsequently disgraced Hugues (780-837), Count of Tours and Sens. Petronille was the sister of Hugues the Abbot (823-886), the most influential religious and political personality of his era.

These relationships are described in a manuscript written by Foulques IV (1043-1109), Count of Anjou and 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandson of Tertulle. Genealogists seem to have argued the rights and wrongs of this information over the years but no firm conclusions have been reached.

The main argument against Tertulle seems to be that he was a commoner and that the family he married into was way above him. But, we are talking about medieval times when people could rise above their original station if they had exceptional military skills or unusual fighting prowess.

It seems likely that no one will ever provide definitive proof of the stories about Tertulle. But, there does seem to be a consensus that Ingelger, possibly the son of Tertulle and Petronelle was the root of the Angevin line.

### **Ingelger (845-893)**

Until his death, Robert the Strong (820-866), Marquis of Neustria held the position of "missus imperatoris" (imperial emissary), for Charles the Bald, in a swathe of country from Orléans down to Anjou. Ingelger provided military services to him.

After Robert's death, Ingelger was appointed Viscount of Orléans by Louis the Stammerer (846-879), King of West Francia. The city had previously been under the rule of its bishops.

He married into one of the leading families of Neustria, the Lords of Amboise; Ingelger married Adélaïde of the Gâtinais, daughter of Foulques of the Gâtinais (b.830) and of the daughter of the Seigneur of Amboise whose full names are not known. Adélaïde's father, Foulques, was Seigneur of Buzançons and of Châtillon-sur-Indre. She is better known as Adélaïde of Amboise. Her maternal uncles were Adalard, Archbishop of Tours, and Raino, Bishop of Angers.

Around 877, Ingelger was recorded as being in possession of Château Landon and of being Governor of the Gâtinais. It seems that he was also regarded as a very significant military figure.

Later, he was appointed military commander at Tours, then being ruled by Archbishop Adalard. He is also believed to have provided military support at one time or another to: Eudes (860-898) and Robert (866-923), Kings of West Francia; and Hugues the Abbot.

At some point, Ingelger may have been appointed Viscount of Angers. This could have been to reward him for defending the territory from the Vikings; but, it could also have been because his wife's relatives had so much influence.

However, he may never have had an Anjou title as his son Foulques did not become Count of Anjou until 929, thirty six years after the death of his father.

Some sources even say that Ingelger was made Vicount of Tours; clearly, much of this has been lost in the mists of time.

Ingelger was buried in the church of Saint-Martin at Châteauneuf-sur-Sarthe, 30 kilometres north of Angers; he was succeeded by his son Foulques.