

Dating exercise

I would suggest that the date is 1147 sometime after August 3rd. I am struggling to get a more accurate date.

Methodology

I read the document a couple of times and noted the places and people mentioned in it. Using the Handbook of British chronology (1) I noted the dates of the clergy and other officials who witnessed the document. I also checked the dates and events of the period in The Anglo Saxon Chronicle.

Witnesses

King Stephen 22 December 1135 – 25 October 1154 (noting that for part of this period of history there was a Civil War)

Queen Matilda (1105 - d before 1152)

Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury (Dec 1138 – 1161d)

Robert B of London (July 1141- 29 Sept 1150)

Robert B of Exeter (28 June 1131-16 April 1148)

Hilary B of Chichester (3 Aug 1147-13 July 1169)

William B of Norwich (1146 or 7 -16 Jan 1174)

Count Eustace, Stephen's son (1130-d1153) Which time periods was he in England?()

William de Ypres, K Stephen's military Commander

Robert de Vere

William Martell, Officer of State (1136-1154)

Princess Matilda died in 1137 age 4. I checked this in two sources as I was not sure of the reliability of one of these sources (2)

Hilary B of Chichester according to Handbook of British Chronology was appointed in 1146 or early 1147. I checked this in another source that suggested he was appointed on 3 Aug 1147 by Canterbury as B of Chichester. (3)

Places

Braughing, Herts

Reference in VCH (4) that between 1146 and 1148 K Stephen granted lands and rent to the Prior of Holy Trinity, London

References in National Archives of Queen Matilda granting the church of Braughing to Robert B. of London , dated 1138-48 (5)

London,

National Archives

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(1) Pryde, E.B., Greenway, D.E. (eds) et al. Handbook of British Chronology, 3rd ed. (1996) C.U.P.

(2)<https://historytheinterestingbits.com/2020/08/04/the-children-of-king-stephen/>

(3) <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/fasti-ecclesiae/1066-1300/vol5/pp1-6>

(4)Victoria County History, Hertfordshire, <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/fasti-ecclesiae/1066-1300/vol5/pp1-6>

(5)London,

National Archives

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