

Assessment 3 Dating Exercise

a) Thursday 18th August 1384

Methodology

I checked King Richard's regnal years in ¹. The feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is 15th August ². 15th August was a Monday, making Thursday the 18th.³

I tried to verify this by searching for the name of the abbot of Byland. It could have been Robert of Helmsley but the source was unsure of his dates and he may not have been alive as he would have been in his 50s in 1384. ⁴

b) Saturday 23rd July 1250

Methodology

I checked the Handbook of British Chronology for Bishop Anian and his predecessors to confirm I had the correct Anian. ⁵ I used Roman Catholic online sources to search for The Feast of Mary Magdalene and ascertained that it is July 22nd.⁶ Bishop Anian was consecrated in November 1249, in 1250 the 22nd July was a Friday. ⁷

c) Thursday 16th April 1311

Methodology

Downham was a clue (my grandparents farmed in the fen district). I thought maybe it was Downham Market, if so John Ketton was an East Anglian Bishop. I searched for Bishops of Ely and found John Ketton's name. He was consecrated on 6 Sept 1310 and Edward II's 4th year was 8 July 1310 x 7 July 1311. ⁸ I checked Easter on the Julian calendar for the year 1311 ⁹

1 C.R.Cheney, (ed) *Handbook of Dates for Students of British History*, London: Royal Historical Society, 1961, p.21

2 Catholic News Agency, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
<<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/the-assumption-561h>> [accessed 15 November 2023].

3 Medieval Genealogy, A Medieval English Calendar, <<http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/cal/augmos.htm>> [accessed 15th November 2023].

4 The Digital Humanities Institute <<https://www.dhi.ac.uk/cistercians/byland/people/>> [accessed 15 November 2023].

5 M. Powicke, (ed.) *Handbook of British chronology*, 2nd ed. (London: Royal Historical Society) 1961, p. 278.

6 Catholic Online, St Mary Magdalene, <https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=83> [accessed 15 November 2023].

7 Medieval Genealogy, A Medieval English Calendar,

8 M Powicke, *Handbook of British Chronology*, p.223.

9 Medieval Genealogy, A Medieval English Calendar,

d) Estimated date of the document between mid 1121 x 11 June 1123. However, if the hypothesis suggested by David Carpenter that the document could be fraudulent is taken into account the date of the document would be later, perhaps late 1120s or 30s.

Methodology

I searched the Handbook of British Chronology for the names of the people mentioned in the document and the dates of King Henry I, II and III.¹⁰ I searched for Earl David on the internet as I did not think it was a common Anglo-Norman name of the period and retrieved information on David I of Scotland who appeared to be the man I was looking for. He returned to Scotland in April 1124 and was regarded as a Count in England. I decided to look more closely at Henry I, and his court. Searching for Geoffrey Ridel and Henry retrieved information showing that Ridel was a royal justice during Henry 1s reign and had died on 25 November 1120 in the White Ship tragedy. Henry I would have had many priorities after loosing his heir in the White Ship disaster and he married Adeliza of Louvain on January 24th 1121 in Windsor. In the summer of 1121 Henry took an army to North Wales to suppress the rebellion of Mareudd ap Bleddyn. I discovered on the internet a thesis that discusses the charter and speculates on it's date. "Sometime soon after Geoffrey's death, King Henry I granted both the marriage of Matilda and wardship of the young Robert Ridel to Richard Basset, Lord Justiciar of England.." This would suggest a date in the early 1120s.¹¹ On April 11 1223 Henry went to Normandy.¹² David Carpenter, Professor of Medieval History, King's College, London has suggested that the charter is a fabrication. "Careful consideration of the terms of the charter and the circumstances surrounding its productions leads to the conclusion that it is a fabrication, confected to ensure that the Ridel lands passed exclusively to the descendants of Richard Basset."¹³

Conclusion

I suggest the date was after 25 November 1120 and before April 1124 when David returned to Scotland. I would further estimate that as Henry I went to Normandy on 11 June 1223 and there would be a period of inactivity after the sinking of the White Ship and his second marriage *the date of the document is between mid 1121 x 11 June 1123* before Henry went to Normandy. However, the hypotheses put forward by David Carpenter should be taken into account. He suggests that the document could be fraudulent and engineered to ensure the Basset family kept possession of the Ridel lands.¹⁴

10 M Powicke, *Handbook of British Chronology*, p.32

11 Rachael Hazell, *The Basset Family: Marriage Connections and Socio-Political Networks in Medieval Staffordshire and Beyond*, Unpublished MA thesis, University of Missouri- Kansas City, (2015), <<https://mospace.umsystem.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10355/45935/HazellBasFamMar.pdf>> (Accessed 18th November 2023).

12 M Powicke, *Handbook of British Chronology*, p.31

13 David Carpenter, 'The Marriage of Richard Basset: An Undetected Forgery In The Name of Henry I' *Historical Research*, 91/252 (2018) pp. 339-406.

14 David Carpenter, pp 339-406

References

- Catholic Online <https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=83> [accessed 15 November 2023].
- Carpenter, David, 'The Marriage of Richard Basset: An Undetected Forgery In The Name of Henry I' *Historical Research*, 91/252 (2018) pp. 339-406.
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