

Fitz-Walter Line

Robert, 5th son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, obtained from Henry I the Barony of Dunmow in Essex, as also the honour of Baynard's Castle, in the City of London. This Robert married in 1112, Maud de St. Liz, Lady of Bradham and the daughter of Simon de St. Liz, 1st Earl of Huntingdon and by her had two son; Walter his successor and Simon. Maud died in 1140. Robert married second Saer de Quincey. He died in 1134.

Walter Fitz-Robert certified his knights fees to be in number 63 and half, de Veleri feoffamento and 3 and fourth part, de Novo, for all of which he paid 44 pd 10 s. He married first to Margaret de Bohun, who died in 1146 and married second to Mary de Lucy, with whom he had the lordship of Dis, in Norfolk, and by whom he had a son Robert. Walter died in 1198.

Robert Fitz-Walter. This feudal lord, upon the assessment of the scutage of Scotland, in the 13th of John, had the kings especial writ of acquittal for 63 knights' fees and a half, which were of his own proper inheritance; and for 30 knights' fees and a third part which he had acquired by marriage. But the next year he was forced to fly with his family into France in order to avoid being arrested, upon the first disposition of the barons to revolt; and was soon afterwards charged with treason and rebellion, when his house, called Baynard's Castle, in the City of London, was demolished by order of the king.

The primary occasion of these discontents is by some thus reported that this Robert Fitz-Walter having a very beautiful

daughter called Maude, residing at Dunmow, the king frequently solicited her chastity, but never prevailing, grew so enraged, that he caused her to be privately poisoned and that she was buried at the south side of the quire at Dunmow, between two pillars there.

Fitz-Walter, however, is said subsequently, to have made his peace with King John, by the great prowess and valour he displayed at a tournament, held in Normandy before the kings of France and England; where running a tilt with his great lance, he overthrew his rival at the first course, which act of gallantry caused the English monarch to exclaim "By God's Tooth, he deserves to be a king who hath such a soldier of his train," and afterwards, ascertaining the name of the victorious knight, he immediately sent for him, and having restored his barony, gave him liberty to repair his castle of Baynard. In the 17th of King John, Fitz-Walter had so far regained the confidence of the crown, that he was appointed governor of the castle at Hertford; but soon after, arraying himself under the baronial banner, his lands were all seized, and those in Cornwall committed to Prince Henry, the king's son. A course of proceeding that had the immediate effect of riveting the haughty baron to the cause which he had espoused, while his high rank, tried courage, and acknowledged abilities, soon gave him a lead amongst his co-peers. We find him, therefore amongst the first commissioners nominated to treat with the king, when it was agreed, and 25 of those powerful feudal chiefs chosen to govern the realm. The insurrectionary lords subsequently assembled at St. Edmundsbury, and there pledged themselves, by solemn oath at the

high alter, that if the king refused to confirm the laws and liberties granted by Edward the Confessor, they would withdraw their allegiance from him and seize upon his fortresses. After which, forming themselves into a regular army, they appointed this Robert Fitz-Walter their General, with the title of Marshal of the army of God and the Church, and under his command, they eventually extorted the Great Charter of Freedom from John on the plains of Runnymede, when Fitz-Walter was elected one of the celebrated 25 appointed to see the faithful observance of those laws. He continued, during the remainder of John's reign, equally firm to his purpose and after the accession of Henry III until the battle of Lincoln, where the baronial army sustained a signal defeat under his command, and he became a prisoner himself, after displaying a more than ordinary degree of valour. He does not appear, however, to have remained long under restraint, for we find him, the very next year, in the Holy Land, and assisting at the great siege of Damietta. This eminent feudal baron married first to Gunnora the daughter and heiress of Robert de Valonies. They had three children. He married second to Rose and he died at the siege of Damietta in 1234 and was succeeded by his son Walter.

Walter Fitz-Walter married Maud. In the 24 year of Henry III, he paid into the exchequer a fine of 300 marks for liver of his lands, and in the 42nd year of the same king had a military summons to march against the Welch. He died in 1259 leaving his son and heir Robert.

Robert Fitz-Walter who had a license in 1275 to pass away the inheritance of Baynard's Castle to Robert Kilwardby, then Archbishop of Canterbury, which prelate translated there to the Dominican or Black Friars from Holborn, near Lincoln's Inn. In alienating this part of his property, Sir Robert took especial care, however, to preserve the immunities of his barony, which as appertaining to Baynard's Castle, are thus specified: "That the said Robert, as constable of the Castle of London (so Baynard's Castle was designated), and his heirs ought to be banner bearers of that city, by inheritance as belonging to that castle; and in time of war, to serve the city in the manner following, that is to ride upon a light horse, with twenty men-at-arms on horseback, their horses covered with cloth or harness, unto the great door of St. Paul's church, with the banner of his arms carried before him."

This Robert Fitz-Walter was the first Baron of Fitz-Walter. He was in the war of Gascony, in the 22nd Edward I., in the retinue of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, and continued there the next year; at which period he was summoned to parliament, and from that time to the 19th Edward II. His lordship was afterwards continually engaged in the Scottish wars. He married first to Devorgil, one of the daughters and co-heirs of John de Burgh and grand-daughter of Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, and by her had two children. His lordship married second to Alianore the daughter of William Ferrers the Earl of Derby and had one son and one daughter: Robert and Ida. The Baron died in 1325 and was succeeded by his son Robert.

Robert Fitz-Walter the second Baron of Fitz-Walter was never summoned to parliament. He was born in 1300. This nobleman married Joane the daughter and co-heir of John de Multon of Egremont. He died in 1328 and was succeeded by his son John.

John Fitz-Walter the third Baron of Fitz-Walter was born in 1316. He was summoned to parliament from 3 March, 1341 to 20 November 1360. In the latter year, being then in the war of France with the king, his lordship was one of those appointed to assist Sir Walter Manny in an attack upon the barriers of Paris, the Duke of Normandy being at the time within the city; and he was knighted for his good services therein. Lord Fitz-Walter married Eleanor the daughter of Henry, Lord Perry, and was succeeded by his son Walter. He was sent to the Tower of London on 1 February 1351/2 but all property was later restored to him.

Walter Fitz-Walter the fourth Baron of Fitz-Walter was summoned to parliament from 6 April 1369 to 3 September 1386. He married first Eleanor but had no issue. He married second Phillippe the daughter and co-heir of John de Mohun, Lord of Dunster and had a son Walter. This nobleman, in the 44th of Edward III, was in the expedition made into Gascony, being esteemed at that time one of the most expert soldiers in the realm. He was captured by the French in the north of France. In order to pay for his ransom he mortgaged his castle of Egremont and other lands of the sum of 1,000 pds. In three years afterwards, he was again in France under John Duke of Lancaster; and in the 1st of Richard II, he served with Thomas Woodstock against the Spanish. In the 5th of

the same reign, he did great service in Essex against Jack Straw, and the next year he was constituted one of the wardens of the west marches towards Scotland. In the 9th, being with John, Duke of Lancaster, in his expedition into Spain, when he went to receive possession of the Kingdom of Castile, his lordship displayed great valour in storming the forts raised against the Castle of Brest, in Brittany, and relieving that fortress, then closely besieged. He was one of the Commanders of the Fleet and Marshall of the Army. He was with the Duke of Lancaster to Spain in June 1386, and died at or near Aronse in Galicia, 26 September 1386. His son was Walter.

Walter Fitz-Walter the 5th Baron of Fitz-Walter was summoned to parliament from 12 September 1390 to 25 August 1404. This nobleman married Joane the daughter of Sir John Devereux, and sister and heiress of John, the 2nd Baron Devereux and had three children. He was passing by sea from Rome to Naples when he was captured by Saraceno and taken prisoner to Tunis. Having been ransomed by some Genose merchants, he died at Venice, 16 May 1406, aged 37.

Walter Fitz-Walter the 7th Baron of Fitz-Walter was born in 1400. He was summoned to parliament from 21 July 1429 to 27 November 1430. This nobleman became so distinguished in the French wars of King Henry V., that he obtained from that monarch, in consideration of his services, a grant to himself and his heirs male of all the lands and lordships which Sir John Cheney to the crown upon decease of the said Sir John. At this time Lord Fitz-

Walter had not attained his full age; he was, however, equally eminent in after years. His lordship had an only daughter and heiress, Elizabeth. He died in 1432.

Elizabeth married Sir John Radcliffe.