

Isabella of Angoulême

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(Redirected from Isabella of Angouleme)

Isabella of Angoulême (French: *Isabelle d'Angoulême*; 1188^[1] – 31 May 1246) was Countess of Angoulême and queen consort of England.

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Queen of England

She was the only daughter and heir of Aymer Taillefer, Count of Angoulême, by Alix de Courtenay. Her paternal grandparents were William V Taillefer, Count of Angouleme and Marguerite de Turenne. Her maternal grandparents were Pierre de Courtenay and Elizabeth de Courtenay. Her maternal great-grandfather was King Louis VI of France. She became Countess of Angoulême in her own right in 1202, by which time she was already queen of England. Her marriage to King John took place on 24 August 1200, at Bordeaux, a year after he annulled his first marriage to Isabel of Gloucester. At the time of this marriage Isabella was aged about twelve, and her beauty was renowned; she is sometimes called the "Helen" of the Middle Ages by historians.

It could not be said to have been a successful marriage, as Isabella was much younger than her husband and had a fiery character to match his. Before their marriage, she had been betrothed to Hugh le Brun, Count of Lusignan^[2], son of the then Count of La Marche. As a result of John's temerity in taking her as his second wife, King Philip II of France confiscated all his French lands, and armed conflict ensued.

Isabella

Queen consort of England
Countess of Angoulême



Queen consort of England

Reign as consort	24 August 1200 – 19 October 1216
Coronation	24 August 1200
	<i>Countess of Angoulême</i>
Reign	16 June 1202 – 31 May 1246
Predecessor	Aymer
Successor	Hugh II (X of Lusignan)
Consort	John <i>Lackland</i> , King of England m. 1200; dec. 1216 Hugh X of Lusignan m. 1220; wid. 1246
Issue	Henry III <i>of Winchester</i> , King of England Richard, 1st Earl of Cornwall Joan, Queen of Scots Isabella, Holy Roman Empress Eleanor, Countess of Pembroke Hugh XI of Lusignan Aymer de Valence Alice le Brun de Lusignan William de Valence, 1st Earl of Pembroke
Titles and styles	<i>Detail</i>
	Queen Isabella of England The Queen of England Isabella of Angoulême
House	House of Taillifer (<i>by birth</i>) House of Plantagenet (<i>by first marriage</i>) House of Lusignan (<i>by second marriage</i>)
Father	Aymer, Count of Angoulême
Mother	Alice of Courtenay
Born	c. 1188
Died	31 Mav 1246 (aged c. 57–58)

Second marriage

	Fontevraud Abbey, France
Burial	Fontevraud Abbey

When John died in 1216, Isabella was still in her twenties. She returned to France and in 1220 proceeded to marry Hugh X of Lusignan, now Count of La Marche, her former fiancé. By him, Isabella had nine more children. Their eldest son Hugh XI of Lusignan succeeded his father as Count of La Marche and Count of Angouleme in 1249.

Death and burial

Isabella was accused of plotting against King Louis IX of France in 1244; she fled to Fontevrault Abbey, where she died on 31 May 1246, and was buried there. At her own insistence she was first buried in the churchyard, as an act of repentance for her many misdeeds. On a visit to Fontevrault her son King Henry III of England was shocked to find her buried outside the Abbey and ordered her immediately moved inside. She was finally placed beside Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Afterwards most of her many children, having few prospects in France, set sail for England and the court of their half-brother King Henry III.

Issue

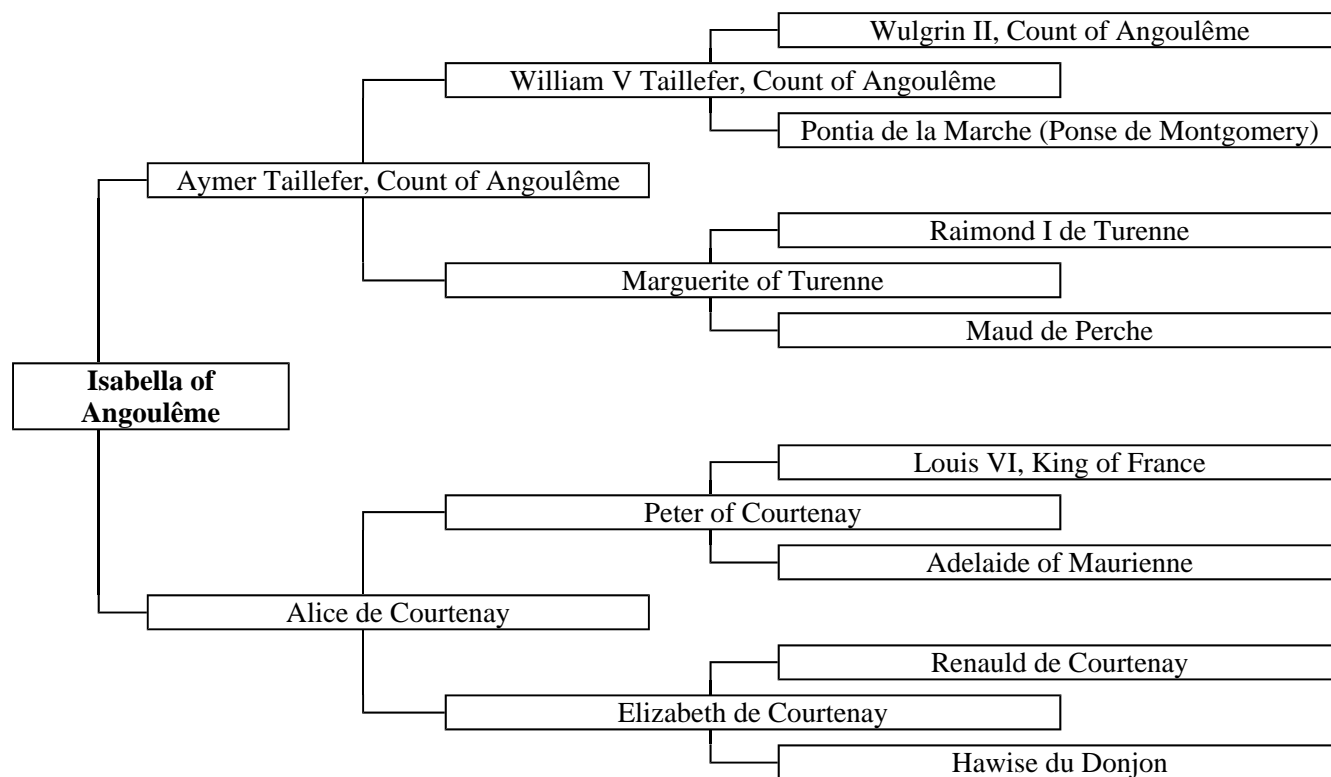
- With King John of England: 5 children, all of whom survived into adulthood, including:

1. King Henry III of England (1 October 1207 – 16 November 1272) Married Eleanor of Provence
2. Richard, Earl of Cornwall and King of the Romans (5 January 1209 – 2 April 1272). Married firstly Isabel Marshal, secondly Sanchia of Provence, and thirdly Beatrice of Falkenburg.
3. Joan (22 July 1210 – 1238), the wife of King Alexander II of Scotland
4. Isabella (1214–1241), the wife of Emperor Frederick II
5. Eleanor (1215–1275), who would marry firstly William Marshal, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, and secondly Simon de Montfort, 6th Earl of Leicester.

- With Hugh X of Lusignan, the Count of La Marche: nine children, all of whom survived into adulthood, including:

1. Hugh XI of Lusignan (1221–1250), Count of La Marche and Count of Angoulême. Married Yolande de Dreux, Countess of Penthievre and of Porhoet
2. Aymer de Valence (1222–1260), Bishop of Winchester
3. Agnès de Lusignan (1223–1269), married William II de Chauvigny
4. Alice le Brun de Lusignan (1224 – 9 February 1256), married John de Warenne, 7th Earl of Surrey and had issue
5. Guy de Lusignan (c. 1225 – 1264), killed at the Battle of Lewes. (*Tufton Beamish maintains that he escaped to France after the Battle of Lewes and died there in 1269*)
6. Geoffrey de Lusignan (c. 1226 – 1274), married in 1259 Jeanne, Viscountess of Châtelleraut and had issue
7. William de Valence, 1st Earl of Pembroke (c. 1228 – 1296) Married Joan de Munchensi. Had issue
8. Marguerite de Lusignan (c. 1229 – 1288), married 1243 Raymond VII of Toulouse, married c. 1246 Aimery IX de Thouars, Viscount of Thouars
9. Isabelle de Lusignan (1234 – 14 January 1299), married Geoffrey de Rancon

Ancestors



Notes

1. ^ The Complete Peerage
2. ^ Hugues X of Lusignan

External links

- FMG on Isabelle d'Angoulême
- COMTES d'ANGOULÊME et de la MARCHE (LUSIGNAN) in English
- ThePeerage on Isabella d'Angoulême

References

- Ancestral Roots of Certain American Colonists Who Came to America Before 1700 by Frederick Lewis Weis, Lines: 1-25, 80-29, 117-27, 153A-28, 154-28, 258-27, 260-29, 275-27
- *Isabelle d'Angoulême, Reine d'Angleterre*, by Sophie Fougère
- *Isabella: Queen Without a Conscience*, by Rachel Bard (historical novel)

English royalty		

Vacant Title last held by Berengaria of Navarre	Queen Consort of England 24 August 1200 – 18 October 1216	Vacant Title next held by Eleanor of Provence
Vacant Title last held by Eleanor of Aquitaine	Queen mother 1216–1246	

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Categories: English royal consorts | 1180s births | 1246 deaths | Counts of Angoulême | House of Taillifer | Women of medieval England | Women of medieval France

Hidden categories: Articles containing French language text

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