

EUSTACE was the name of four counts of Boulogne.

Eustace I, a son of Count Baldwin II, held the county from 1046 until his death in 1049.

His son, Eustace II (d. 1093), count of Boulogne, was the husband of Goda, daughter of the English king Æthelred the



William the Duke [alive]. Eustace (Count) [appears]. Here the French fight.

Unready, and sister of Edward the Confessor. After Goda's death, he married Ida of Lorraine and had three sons. Eustace paid a visit to England in 1051, and was honourably received at the Confessor's court. A brawl in which he and his servants became involved with the citizens of Dover led to a serious quarrel between the king and Earl Godwine. The latter, to whose jurisdiction the men of Dover were subject, refused to punish them. His contumacy was made the excuse for the outlawry of himself and his family. In 1066, Eustace came to England with Duke William, and fought at the battle of Hastings.

← In the Bayeux Tapestry, Eustachius (Bolonix Comes) points to Duke William and carries an elaborate gonfalon,

which may be the one given by Pope Alexander II to show his support for William's invasion of England. In an earlier scene near Hastings on the Tapestry, a seated William, Duke of Normandy, carries the same Papal banner. In 1067, probably because he was dissatisfied with his share of the spoil, he assisted the Kentishmen in an attempt to seize Dover Castle. The conspiracy failed, and Eustace was sentenced to forfeit his English fiefs. Subsequently he was reconciled to the Conqueror, who restored a portion of the confiscated lands. Eustace died in 1093, and was succeeded by his son, Eustace III, who went on the First Crusade in 1096 with his brothers, in which, by the capture of the Holy City, the younger brother, Baldwin, was crowned King of Jerusalem. Eustace died about 1125 and on his death the county of Boulogne came to his daughter, Matilda of Boulogne, and her husband Stephen, count of Blois, afterwards king of England.

Eustace IV (d. 1153) became the heir-apparent to his father Stephen's possessions by the death of an elder brother before 1135. In 1137 he did homage for Normandy to Louis VII of France, whose sister, Constance, he subsequently married. Eustace was knighted in 1147, at which date he was probably from sixteen to eighteen years of age, and in 1151 he joined Louis in an abortive raid upon Normandy, which had accepted the title of the empress Matilda, and was now defended by her husband, Geoffrey of Anjou. This other Matilda, cousin to Stephen and daughter of Henry I of England, was first married to the Holy Roman Emperor, Henry V. After the death of both her brothers, the empress Matilda, also known as Maud, was recalled to her father's court in order that she might be recognized as his successor in England and Normandy. The Great Council of England did homage to her under considerable pressure. Their reluctance to acknowledge a female sovereign was increased when Henry gave the widow in marriage in 1128 to Geoffrey Plantagenet, the heir of Anjou and Maine (1129); nor was it removed by the birth of the future Henry II, in 1133. On the old king's death in 1135, both England and Normandy accepted his nephew, Stephen, of Mortain and Boulogne. Matilda and her husband were in Anjou at the time. They wasted the next few years in the attempt to win Normandy; but Earl Robert of Gloucester, the half-brother of the empress, at length induced her to visit England and raise her standard called the Anarchy in the western shires, where his influence was supreme. Though on her first landing Matilda only escaped capture through the misplaced chivalry of her opponent, she soon turned the tables upon him with the help of the Church and the barons of the west. Stephen was defeated and captured at Lincoln (1141); the empress was acclaimed Lady or Queen of England (she used both titles indifferently) and crowned at London. But the arrogance which she displayed in her prosperity alienated the Londoners and the papal legate, Bishop Henry of Winchester. The Lady of England was compelled to release Stephen in exchange for Earl Robert after her army was routed at the siege of Winchester, and thenceforward her cause steadily declined in England. In 1148, having lost by the earl's death her principal supporter, she retired to Normandy, where her husband Geoffrey of Anjou had in the meantime gained possession and there he died in 1151. Henceforth she remained in the background for age had mellowed her temper, thus, leaving her eldest son Henry to pursue the struggle with Stephen.

At a council held in London on the 6th of April 1152 Stephen induced a small number of barons to do homage to Eustace IV as their future king; but the primate, Theobald, and the other bishops declined to perform the coronation ceremony on the ground that the Roman curia had declared against the claim of Eustace. The death of Eustace, which occurred during the next year, was hailed with general satisfaction as opening the possibility of a peaceful settlement to the civil war between Stephen and his rival, the young Henry of Anjou. The *Peterborough Chronicle*, not content with voicing any such sentiment, gives Eustace a bad character: "He was an evil man and did more harm than good wherever he went; he spoiled the lands and laid thereon heavy taxes." He had used threats against the recalcitrant bishops, and in the war against the Angevin party had demanded contributions from religious houses; these facts perhaps suffice to account for the verdict of the chronicler. The empress Maud would live to see the death of Stephen and outlive the coronation of her son in 1154 by ten years. He would rule as Henry II over England, large parts of Wales, the eastern half of Ireland, and the western part of France, the whole area became known as the Angevin Empire.