



Hugues (ii) de Cavalcamp. 912-989

Father: Hugues (I) de Cavalcamp (c.890-c.980)

Mother: Haldruc de Therouanne

Spouse: unknown.

Children:

1. Hugues is known to have had 'many' children by different mothers.

Hugues (II) was the elder of the two Cavalcamp brothers. He began his adult life by joining the Benedictine community of the Abbey St-Denis in Paris, a royal establishment of some fame. As a monk, it is believed that Hugues obtained ordination as a priest.¹

The Church in Normandy at this time was in a disgraceful state. Palgrave paints a picture of, "an absence of any moral restraint," a "failure of the forms of ecclesiastical governance," adding that "the Monks, with few exceptions, were destitute of discipline, the Canons, worse."² All observance of canonical elections had disappeared and the rights of the Regale were rampant. Hugues was placed in the archiepiscopal See of Rouen by Guillaume Longue-épée during this period, having taken advantage of the situation as it existed within the Norman Church. How Hugues became known to the ducal family is not known but it is certainly possible that he served as a clerk, this being a regular route to promotion.

As Archbishop of Rouen, Hugues commenced a reign that had few equals! He is said to have completely abandoned his Benedictine life and took upon him the mantle of a mighty nobleman. He distributed largesse, he gave lands to his family and intimates – notably, to both his brother sister – he fathered many children! In Palgrave's words, he "dissipated the property of the Church, and surrendered himself to gross sensuality."³

The lands which Hugh alienated from the cathedral and archdiocese of Rouen included more than just Tosny. The family's possessions included –

¹ Palgrave, Francis (1864) *The History of Normandy and of England, Volume III*, London: Macmillan, 18.

² *Ibid.*, 15-16.

³ *Ibid.*, 16.fc v

- Acquigny;
- Cailly;
- Conches;
- Trisay;
- Pîtres;
- Romilly-sur-Andelle with Pont-Saint-Pierre;
- Guerny and Vesly;
- Saint-Christophe-du-Foc;

all of which possessions are considered to have come via the archbishop's hands.⁴

Hugues died in office as archbishop on 19 November 989. It is probable that he was buried in the Cathedral of Rouen.

⁴ Musset, L., 'Aux origines d'une classe dirigeante: les Tosny, grands barons normands du Xe au XIIIe siècles', *Francia*, 5 (1978), 45-80, 70-73.