

## THE ROYAL HOUSE OF NORMANDY

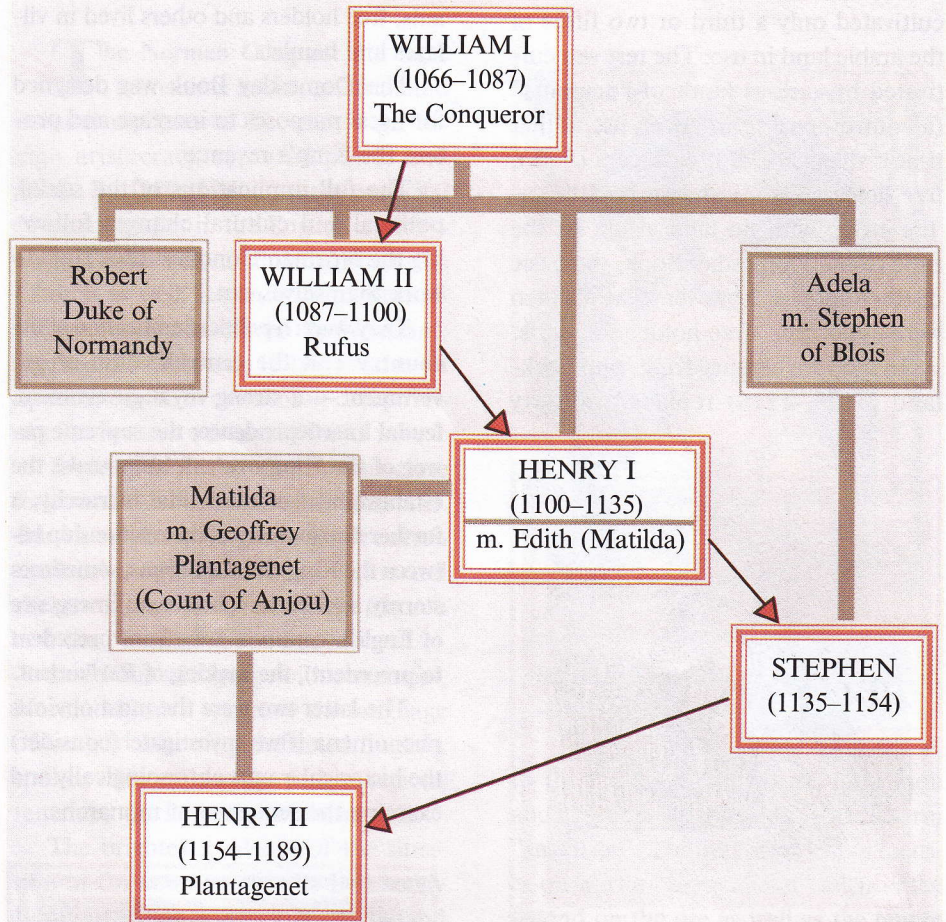


Table 1

**William I The Conqueror** (1066–1087) (the Norman Dynasty) died as a result of falling from his horse in a battle in France, was succeeded by his two sons, one after the other:

**William II** (1087–1100) was cruel but a brave soldier, little loved and little missed when he died.

**Henry I** (1100–1135) was scholarly and well educated. His daughter was married to the German Emperor Henry V, and

later upon his death to Geophrey of Anjou; the son of Geophrey of Anjou (Angevin) became the first Plantagenet\*.

**Henry II** (1154–1189) was friendly with **Thomas Becket**, a humble clerk, who was appointed the archbishop of Canterbury. Henry misjudged this man who considered his first loyalty to be the Church and not the King.

\* *Planta genista* — Latin for “broom”.



## PLANTAGENET KINGS

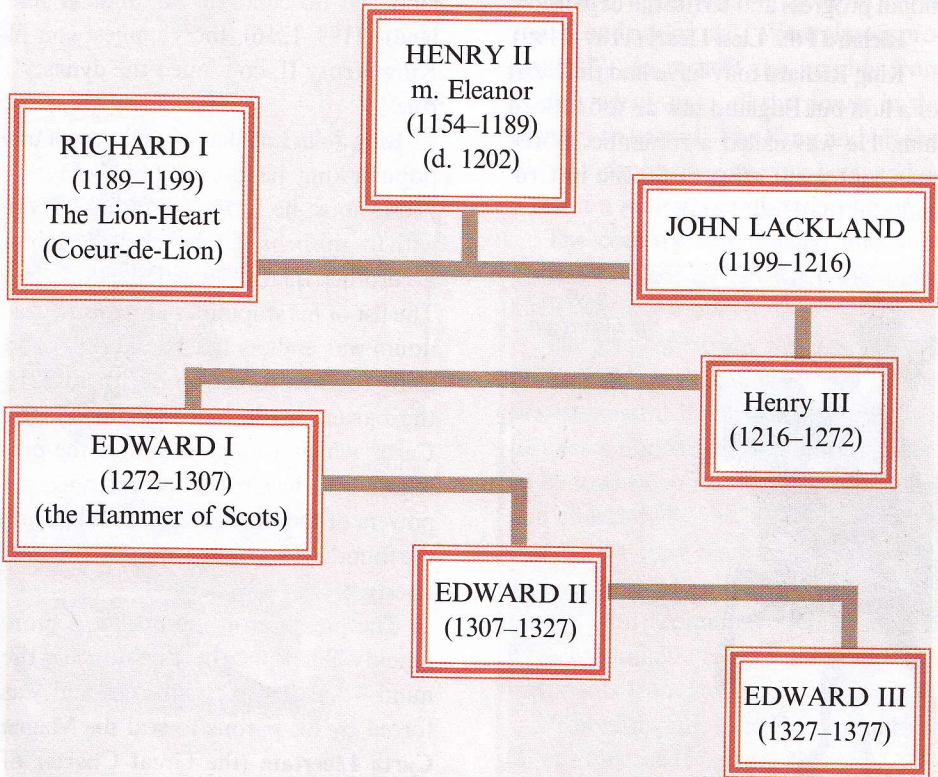


Table 2



*The Murder of Thomas Becket  
in the Cathedral*

The conflict ended in the murder of Thomas Becket in his own cathedral by the King's servants. Becket was canonized (St. Thomas); his shrine became a place of pilgrimage for the whole of Europe, for the cures effected there, until it was destroyed by Henry VIII in 1538. So the King of the House of Plantagenet was the first to have a conflict with the Church and he physically destroyed the opposition.

His wife Eleanor took a lively interest in politics. Somewhat too lively at times, for she abetted (helped and supported) her sons when they rebelled

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