NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE PEDIGREE OF THE LORDS OF VONGES[1]

by Thierry le Hête[2]

ABSTRACT

With the little documentary evidence available, The Lords of Vonges, a long dead branch of the Champlitte and Pontailler families in France are not well known or understood. Here, author and French medieval genealogy expert Thierry le Hête has uncovered new sources that reveal three previously unknown members of the family and he shows how they fit into a revised pedigree.

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The Lords of Vonges belong to one of nine branches of the very important family of the Lords of Champlitte and Pontailler, all of whom are now extinct. The Champlitte come from the dynasty of Blois, but their legitimacy or non-legitimacy with Eudes (d.1087) presumed son of Hugues of Champagne, has not been proved (Arbois de Jubainville, 1859-1866, Vol. II, p.135).

A detailed study of the House of Blois and all its branches is the subject of my new book, researched and written in collaboration with the late Jean Gouget, an expert on the Champlitte-Pontailler (Gouget & Le Hête, 2004). Although we investigated all branches of the House of Blois in great detail, I was not completely satisfied with our knowledge of the genealogy of the Vonges. After Jean Gouget's death in November 2001, I decided to pursue our research in this area at Les Archives Départementales de la Côte d'Or, at Dijon. During my research, I consulted the work of Noël Garnier (undated), which provided valuable information about family relationships between members of the branch of Vonges. Another important source of new information was the work of Recueil de Peincede[3] where I found three new members of the Vonges not mentioned by the classical genealogical texts of Ernest Petit (1885-1905) or Gabriel Dumay (1910). Petit (1885-1905, Vol. 2, p. 477) states that Guillaume de Vonges and Jeanne de Mimandes had a son, Erard, and other children whose destiny was unknown. From Peincede, I have identified three of them (those with Christian names underlined in the pedigree that follows) and in Fig 1 I propose a revised family tree for the Vonges dynasty.

The details in Peincede are as follows:

- Jean de Vonges is mentioned in 1372 in a land-use survey for woods he possessed at Argilly and for some of his lands at Montot.
- Guillaume is mentioned in 1367 in a letter written under the Official Seal of Langres. The letter recognises that an amount of ten pounds 'estevenon' is due to him[4].

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1 Vonges, département de la Côte d'Or, arrondissement de Dijon, canton de Pontailler-sur-Saône.

2 Thierry le Hête is the author of: *La Dynastie Capétienne (764-1998): Généalogie et Histoire.* Condé-sur-Noireau (1998); *Les Comtes Palatins de Bourgogne et leur Descendence Agnatique. Histoire et Genéalogie d'une Dynastie sur Huit Siécles.* Paris (1995). With Jean Gouget he has written another genealogical study (Gouget & Le Hête, 2004) due to be published in 2004.

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3 *Recueil de Peincede*. Arch.Deptl. de la Côte d'Or – 30 volumes with many extracts of manuscripts from the Middle Ages until the 17th century.

4 *Recueil de Peincede* **25**: 366.

- Jeanne de Champlitte (quoted 1382) married André Etienne de Fenay, notary at Dijon, before 1382. When she married, Jeanne received 50 *livrées*[5] from the land of Vonges[6]. A deed of 1382 shows that Guillaume of Champlitte, Jeanne's father, leased the lordship of Vonges for thirteen years to his son-in-law, André Etienne de Fenay[7]. This document was countersigned by Jeanne de Mimandes and Erard de Champlitte (Garnier, p.53).

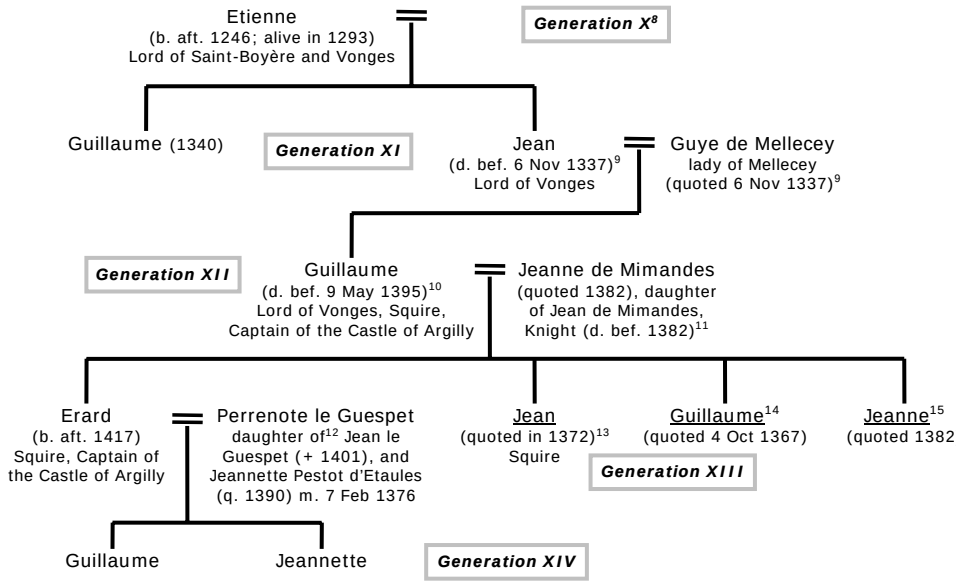


Fig 1. ***The Vonges Pedigree***

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5 The *livrée* was a measuring unit for a land.

6 *Recueil de Peincede* **25**: 366.

7 Unverified translation. The original reads: *Par un acte de 1382, Guillaume de Champlitte engage auprès de son gendre André Etienne de Fenay, et pour treize ans toute la seigneurie de Vonges.*

8 The first ancestor of Etienne de Champlitte, Lord of Vonges, was Thibaud the Old, Viscount of Tours (d. bef. 943).

9 *Recueil de Peincede* **2**: 541.

10 Dom Villevieille – *Trésors généalogiques* – Bibliothèque nationale Manuscrits. Français 31908.

11 *Recueil de Peincede* **25:** 366.

Recueil de Peincede **7:** 80; this Jean de Vonges is distinguished from Jean, Lords of Vonges (quoted in 1340), by chronology. This last son of Etienne, first lord of Vonges was born between 1270-1280 and must have been dead by 1372.

12 The Champlitte lords of Vonges still existed until the end of the 15th century, but we don't know the link between them and the Lords of Vonges detailed here. We think that they descended perhaps from Jean quoted in 1372, but we have no proof.

13 *Recueil de Peincede* **7:** 80.

14 *Recueil de Peincede* **1**: 124; he was named Guillaume, son of Guillaume of Champlitte, Lord of Vonges.

15 *Recueil de Peincede* **25:** 643.

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