THE DEATH OF MARGARET OF SCOTLAND, COUNTESS OF KENT

by Andrew B W MacEwen[1]

ABSTRACT

The author cites evidence from a charter in Magdalen College, Oxford, confirming that Margaret, eldest child of William I of Scotland, died on St Machute's day in 1259.

Foundations (2009) 3 (1): 36 *© Copyright FMG and the author*

On Tuesday, 25 November 1259, writs of *diem clausit extremum* were issued at Westminster "*regarding the lands and tenements of Margaret late countess of Kent.*" Inquisitions were held at "*Benstede*" (Banstead), Surrey, on Saturday 6 December and at "*Aspele*" (Aspley-Guise), Bedfordshire, on Thursday 11 December.[2] The exact date of the Countess's death appears to be unknown. CP merely states that she died in 1259, while Ellis (1952) noted that "*the Countess Margaret lived on until 1259,*" dying "*probably about November of that year.*" However, one of the Aynho Hospital deeds at Magdalen College, Oxford, shows that she died on the feast of St Machutus, 15 November, a Saturday in 1259.

By an undated charter,"*Tomas de Crewelton, son of Robert Niweman of Frutewelle, for the soul of himself and his wife Margaret,*" granted to the hospital at "*Heyno*" two acres and one rood of arable land in Crewelton (described), "*to hold upon condition of celebrating yearly on the day of St Machute the anniversary of Margaret Countess of Kent, deceased, on which day the brethren shall have from the said land a pittance of 12d.*"

The witnesses, all local men, were William de la Haye, Nicolas de Grimescote, Robert de Syringe, Richard Bemund, Robert Bemund, Paulin de Merlaue, Hubert de Heyno, Richard son of John, Roger the Cook, and Geoffrey Marcward.[3]

The connection between Thomas de Crewelton and Margaret, Countess of Kent, is unknown. Perhaps it was through his wife Margaret.

References

Bain, Joseph (1881, editor). *Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland, preserved in Her Majesty's Public Record Office, London. Vol I, AD 1108-1272.* Edinburgh, pp.425-426, Nos. 2171 and 2173.

Ellis, Clarence (1952). *Hubert de Burgh: a study in constancy.* London, p.167 and n.2.

1 *Author's contact address:*
290 Main Street, PO Box 397, Stockton Springs, ME 04981-0397, USA.

2 Bain (1881). Bain's dates, 4 and 9 December, are erroneous. Unfortunately they were not corrected in the supplementary volume 5 (published in 1986).

3 Aynho Hospital Deeds at Magdalen College, Oxford, no.36 (p.31 of Rev W D Macray's catalogue). The author is grateful to Dr Robin Darwall-Smith, archivist, Magdalen College, and Dr Bruce A McAndrew for their generous assistance in obtaining copies of the deeds. The seal of no.36 is lost.