

Plantagenet Family Timeline 1122-1183

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A note on the Plantagenet children: Eleanor and Henry had three daughters. I do not mention them in the timeline, because their whereabouts are not politically relevant to the play. If you are curious, you may find their names (linked to articles about them) in Eleanor's full biography.

1122- Eleanor is born.

1130- Eleanor becomes the heir to the duchy of Aquitaine upon the death of her younger brother and their mother.

1133- Henry II is born.

1137- Eleanor's father dies, leaving Eleanor the official Duchess of Aquitaine. One month later, she is married to Louis VII, heir to the throne of France -thereby securing his descendent's control of her recently inherited duchy.

1147- Eleanor of Aquitaine joins Louis VII on the Second Crusade, as the Feudal leader of the soldiers from her duchy.

1149- Eleanor and Louis VII return from the Crusade.

1150- Henry II becomes the Duke of Normandy.

1151- Henry II becomes Count of Anjou, *Maine and Touraine*.

1152- In March, Eleanor and Louis VII's marriage is annulled, and two months later, Eleanor marries Henry II, Duke of Normandy (more about the three of them on pages 26-27 of the glossary).

1153- Henry II invades England and forces King Stephen to recognize him as heir to the throne. William (Henry II and Eleanor's first son) is born.

1154- Henry II is crowned King of England. He now controls: England, most of Wales and Ireland, the Angevin Empire (consisting of Normandy, Aquitaine, and Anjou), Scotland and the Duchy of Brittany. Thomas Becket becomes one of Henry II's chancellors.

1155- Young Henry is born.

1156- William dies at three years old.

1157- Richard the Lion Heart is born.

1158- Geoffrey is Born.

1160- Alais is born.

1162- Thomas Becket is appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, and his relationship with Henry II quickly devolves into conflict (more on that on pages 14-18 of the glossary).

1165- Eleanor takes Richard to Normandy. This is the first time he has set foot in Europe.

1166- Henry meets Rosamund (historians think). Later that year, John Lackland is born. Geoffrey is betrothed to Constance (daughter of the Duke of Brittany).

1167- Eleanor leaves to live in Poitiers, and begins her “Court of Love.” John is sent to live at Fontevrault Abby. He will spend his early childhood there, and at the house of his older brother Young Henry.

1169- Alais and Richard are betrothed as a stipulation of the Treaty of Montmirail. Alais is sent to England to live with the Plantagenets. Geoffrey receives the homage of the Breton nobles.

1170- Young Henry is crowned King, to insure smooth succession of the English throne, but is given no real power. He is fifteen years old, and he is bitter about this. Thomas Becket is murdered on the 29th of December.

1171- Richard and Eleanor go to Aquitaine together. Henry II gifts Richard the duchy of Aquitaine upon Eleanor’s request. Richard and Eleanor tour Aquitaine, introducing him to the people that live there and performing local ceremonies together. John is betrothed to Alais (not the one in the play) daughter of Humbert III of Savoy.

1172- Richard inherits Poitiers and is recognized as the official duke of Aquitaine and count of Poitou. Margaret of France (Alais’ sister) marries Young King Henry. Around this time, Richard follows Young Henry to Paris and is knighted there.

1173- Young King Henry, Richard, and Geoffrey rebel against Henry II with support from Eleanor and Louis VII. John emerges as Henry II’s favorite son, and goes to live with his father. Geoffrey’s armies are defeated and he is sent back to Brittany-after Henry II confiscates some of his land and money. Thomas Becket is sainted by the Pope.

1174- Eleanor is captured while aiding Richard’s armies (which are really also her armies) in Aquitaine, and is imprisoned by her husband. Richard takes refuge in France, and the rebellion fails. Henry II strikes a peace treaty with Louis VII, specifically excluding Richard from the document. Henry II’s three sons follow Richard to beg Henry’s forgiveness, which he grants, but

punishes them by taking away some of their land and power in retribution for their betrayal (and giving some of it to John). Henry publicly acknowledges his affair with Rosamund for the first time.

1175- Richard is sent back to Aquitaine to punish the Barons who fought with him against his father...this does not go over well with the Barons. Henry looks into annulling his marriage to Eleanor, but never does.

1176- Rosamund Clifford dies on July 6th. Henry II will die on the same day 13 years later. Rumors circulate that Eleanor poisoned Rosamund, but this is unproven in historical records.

1177- The church of England -facing pressure from Louis VII, perhaps due to rumors of Alais and Henry II's affair- threatens Henry II and tells him to proceed with the marriage between Alais and Richard. Henry II smooths things over...the wedding does not take place.

1179- Richard's Barons revolt, having turned against him after the rebellion of 1173-74. They recruit Henry and Geoffrey to help dethrone him, but Richard is a skilled military commander and a ruthless Duke. He maintains control of his lands. Philip II is crowned King when his father, Louis VII becomes ill.

1180- Louis VII dies, and Philip II inherits the throne of France, and marries his wife Isabella later that year. Henry II meets with Philip II and an understanding is reached. As a result, Champagne is isolated politically, leaving Philip II truly in charge of his own realm...or at least the parts of it Henry II hasn't conquered. All of England's French holdings remain a threat to Philip's reign.

1181-1182- Richard is still fighting various rebellions against him. His opponents garner support from Philip II. Geoffrey marries Constance, becoming the Duke of Brittany and Earl of Richmond.

1183- The Gascons revolt against Richard. Young King Henry and Geoffrey join them and try to drive Richard off his land ...again. In an effort to keep the kingdom from splitting, Henry II comes to Richards aid against his other two sons, but Young Henry suddenly dies, effectively ending the uprising. Richard becomes Heir to Normandy and Anjou upon his brother's death, and the Norman Vexin and Gisors are transferred to Alais' dowry. Henry demands that Richard give John the duchy of Aquitaine. Richard refuses this order, and turns to Philip II for support. **** The Lion in Winter takes place, and some of this action is written into the play!****

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