

# William III, Count of Toulouse

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**William III Taillefer** (also spelled *Tallefer* or *Tallifer*; c. 970 – September 1037) was the Count of Toulouse, Albi, and Quercy from 972 or 978 to his death. He was the first of the Toulousain branch of his family to bear the title *marchio*, which he inherited (c.975) from Raymond II of Rouergue.

His parentage has been subject to reevaluation. He has traditionally been called son of Raymond III Pons and Garsinda.<sup>[1]</sup> However, recent research has revealed that William was instead son of Adelais of Anjou, known to have married a Raymond, "Prince of Gothia". This discovery has required a complete reevaluation of the succession to the County of Toulouse during this period, and no scholarly consensus has developed.<sup>[2]</sup>

He and his vassals were notorious usurpers of church property. He stole from the abbey of Lézat, but gave it back between 1015 and 1025. Pope John XIX ordered him to stop his vassals from taking the lands of Moissac, a problem later remedied by his successor, Pons, who gave Moissac to Cluny.

William became the most powerful prince in western Languedoc and he saw the rise of the House of Capet in France and a corresponding decrease in royal authority recognised in the south. He bore the title of *marchio prefatus in pago Tholosano*: "prefect margrave in the Toulousain country." His influence extended into the Narbonensis and even Provence, on behalf of his wife. His power did not remain undiminished in his own city of Toulouse, where he was forced by a council of local noblemen and clerics to give up dues imposed on the market there.

Before 992, William married Emma, daughter of Rotbold III of Provence. From her he gained titles and lands to Provence. From a prior marriage, he had two sons, Raymond and Hugh, who died young. His eldest son by Emma, Pons, inherited Toulouse and the title of Margrave of Provence. His second son Bertrand became Count of Forcalquier, a Provençal fief. He had an illegitimate daughter who married Otto Raymond of L'Isle-Jourdain.

## References

- Lewis, Archibald R. (1965) *The Development of Southern French and Catalan Society, 718–1050*. University of Texas Press: Austin. p 341.
- Some historians have suggested a single additional generation (referred to as Raymond III of Toulouse, his father Raymond Pons being stripped of an ordinal), while others follow the Codice de Roda in giving Raymond Pons a son Raymond who in turn had sons Hugh and Raymond. Identifying the last with the husband of Adelais inserts two generations, making William the great-grandson of Raymond Pons. Yet another reconstruction suggests that Raymond and Garsinda died childless, and that Toulouse passed to kinsman Raymond II of Rouergue, from whom the husband of Adelais would descend. See Martin de Framond, "La succession des comtes de Toulouse autour de l'an mil(940—1030): reconsidérations", *Annales du Midi* 204 (1993), pp 461—488; Thierry Stasser, "Adélaïde d'Anjou. Sa famille, ses mariages, sa descendance", *Le Moyen Age* 103,1 (1997): 9–52; Cawley, Charles, *Medieval Lands Project*, Medieval Lands database, Foundation for Medieval Genealogy, for different reconstructions.

## Sources

William III, Count of Toulouse	
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Emma of Provence
<b>Noble family</b>	House of Rouergue
<b>Father</b>	Raymond, Prince of Gothia
<b>Mother</b>	Adelais of Anjou
<b>Born</b>	c. 970
<b>Died</b>	September 1037

- Cawley, Charles, *Medieval Lands Project: Toulouse.*, Medieval Lands database, Foundation for Medieval Genealogy,
- Thierry Stasser, "Adélaïde d'Anjou. Sa famille, ses mariages, sa descendance", *Le Moyen Age* 103,1 (1997): 9–52

William III, Count of Toulouse <b>House of Rouergue</b> <b>Born:</b> c. 970 <b>Died:</b> September 1037		
Preceded by <b>Raymond</b>	<b>Counts of Toulouse</b> 978–1037	Succeeded by <b>Pons</b>

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