

William VIII, Duke of Aquitaine

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William VIII (c. 1025 – 25 September 1086), born **Guy-Geoffrey** (*Gui-Geoffroi*), was duke of Gascony (1052–1086), and then duke of Aquitaine and count of Poitiers (as William VI) between 1058 and 1086, succeeding his brother William VII (Pierre-Guillaume).

Guy-Geoffroy was the youngest son of William V of Aquitaine by his third wife Agnes of Burgundy. He was the brother-in-law of Henry III, Holy Roman Emperor who had married his sister, Agnes de Poitou.

He became Duke of Gascony in 1052 during his older brother William VII's rule. Gascony had come to Aquitanian rule through William V's marriage to Prisca (a.k.a. Brisce) of Gascony, the sister of Duke Sans VI Guilhem of Gascony.

William VIII was one of the leaders of the allied army called to help Ramiro I of Aragon in the Siege of Barbastro (1064). This expedition was the first campaign organized by the papacy, namely Pope Alexander II, against a Muslim city, and the precursor of the later Crusades movement. Aragon and its allies conquered the city, killed its inhabitants and collected an important booty.

However, Aragon lost the city again in the following years. During William VIII's rule, the alliance with the southern kingdoms of modern Spain was a political priority as shown by the marriage of all his daughters to Iberian kings.

He married three times and had at least five children. After he divorced his second^[*sic*, first?, his 2nd wife bore a child, his first did not] wife due to infertility, he remarried to a much younger woman who was also his cousin. This marriage produced a son, but William VIII had to visit Rome in the early 1070s to persuade the pope to recognize his children from his third marriage as legitimate.

- First wife: Garsende of Périgord, daughter of Count Aldabert II of Périgord (divorced November 1058), no children. She became a nun at Saintes.
- Second wife: Matoeda (divorced May 1068)

1. Agnes (1052–1078), married Alfonso VI of Castile

- Third wife: Hildegarde of Burgundy (daughter of duke Robert I of Burgundy)

1. Agnes (died 1097), married Peter I of Aragon
2. William IX of Aquitaine, his heir

Sources

- Owen, D. D. R. *Eleanor of Aquitaine: Queen and Legend*.
- *Nouvelle Biographie Générale*. Paris, 1859.

See also

William VIII, Duke of Aquitaine	
Spouse(s)	Garsende of Périgord Matilda Hildegarde of Burgundy
Noble family	House of Poitiers
Father	William V of Aquitaine
Mother	Agnes of Burgundy
Born	c. 1025
Died	25 September 1086 Chizé

- Dukes of Aquitaine family tree

William VIII, Duke of Aquitaine House of Poitiers Born: c. 1025 Died: 25 September 1086		
Preceded by Bernard II	Duke of Gascony 1052–1086	Succeeded by William IX
Preceded by William VII	Duke of Aquitaine 1058–1086	
	Count of Poitiers 1058–1086	

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