

Henry II

Henry II, King of England was also known as Henry Curtmantle and Henry Plantagenet. He was born in 1133 and died at 56 years old in 1189. He was king of England from 1154 until 1189, thirty-five years. His father was Count Geoffrey of Anjou and his mother was Matilda, the daughter of Henry I.

Henry inherited the 'Angevin' lands which covered England, and large parts of France, Ireland and Wales. He also acquired Aquitaine in France by marrying Eleanor of Aquitaine in 1152.

Henry strengthened royal rule in England and brought in new ideas to deal with money, local government and justice. He quarrelled with a priest called Thomas a Becket. Henry had eight children by Eleanor. Five sons called William, The Young Henry, Richard, Geoffrey and John. Two of his sons Richard I, also known as 'Richard the Lionheart', and John, were rebellious and didn't get on. Another son called Geoffrey ruled Brittany in France.

A map of the Angevin Empire

