

FITZSTEPHEN, ROBERT (died c. 1183), one of the conquerors of Ireland

Name: Robert Fitzstephen
Date of death: c. 1183
Parent: Nest ferch Rhys ap Tewdwr
Parent: Stephen
Gender: Male
Occupation: one of the conquerors of Ireland
Area of activity: Military; Politics, Government and Political Movements
Author: Bertie George Charles

son of Stephen, constable of Cardigan castle in 1136, by [Nest](#), daughter of [Rhys ap Tewdwr](#). He had lands in Cemais and succeeded his father as constable of Cardigan. When Henry II invaded the realm of [Owain Gwynedd](#) in North Wales in 1157, Robert went to his assistance with a fleet. In the fighting he was badly wounded but escaped to the waiting ships. He seems to have successfully defended the fortress of Cardigan for the [Clares](#) for a long period, even against the onslaught of [Hywel ab Owain](#) in 1145. Not until 1165, after [Rhys ap Gruffydd](#) had subdued almost the whole of Ceredigion, did the castle fall into the hands of the Welsh. It was then betrayed to [Rhys](#), razed to the ground, and Robert was imprisoned for over three years. On his release he crossed to Ireland to aid the king of Leinster and played a significant role in the conquest of Ireland where he was granted lands in Wexford and its neighbourhood. In 1177 he received a joint grant of the kingdom of Cork, where he ruled until his death, c. 1183. The abbey of Strata Florida was founded in 1164 on land given to the monks by Robert. He also gave Llanfyrnach on the Taf to the knights of Slebech.

Author

Dr Bertie George Charles, (1908 - 2000)

Sources

J. E. Lloyd, *A History of Wales from the Earliest Times to the Edwardian Conquest* (London 1911), 499, 504, 519, 538-9, 597
Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Richard Fenton, *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire* (London 1811). (2nd ed.), 347

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Robert Fitz-Stephen](#)

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q3400910](#)

Published date: 1959

Article Copyright: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/> 

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).

