



The Provisions

The official newsletter of
Simon de Montfort 2014



December 2013

This month 750 years ago saw Henry pull another one of his underhanded moves. Worried that Simon's oratory might carry the day at Amiens, he had Roger Mortimer attack three of the manors he had been forced to give the Montforts as part of finally converting their fee into land. He was counting on Simon being sufficiently outraged to forgo defending the Provisions in favour of protecting his interests. Henry could have saved himself the trouble, as a hole in the ground eventually did the trick. Montfort would tend to Mortimer later, and much has been made of a feud between these two, probably because of the special gift Roger made to his missus after Evesham.



Wigmore, the den of Roger and Maud's debauchery

There don't seem to be any incidents of mutual disdain before that, not like those that passed between Simon and William de Valence. One possibility could be the fall of Builth Castle to the Welsh in 1260. As the castellan, Mortimer was accused of deserting his post, principally by Edward. Although exonerated, the barons again let him stew when Henry resurrected the charge during the dressing down he gave them at the Tower in 1261. Perhaps Roger held Simon, as the most militant and outspoken of the barons, responsible for this singular humiliation.

The approaching Christmas season seems like a good time to reproduce this description of the festivities given by Thomas Costain in *The Magnificent*



Have a merry medieval
Christmas

Century: 'The wassail bowls were ready with the fragrant hot spiced ale and the roasted apples. The meats were making on the spits, pig and boar and goose, and the kitchens were still busy preparing such holiday delicacies as dilligrout and karum pie.' This was before Gilbert Marshal ruined Henry's gaiety by walking in uninvited. A quick check in the dictionary reveals that dilligrout was a watery porridge made with plums, served mostly to

commemorate the 1066 English coronation. As for karum pie, it might as well be harum pie for all the luck I had trying to find out what it is.

The Simon de Montfort Society and Sussex Archaeological Society are planning lots of events, provisional so far, to commemorate 2014 and 2015. Dilligrout may even be on the menu. Happy holidays!

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