



The Provisions



The official newsletter of
Simon de Montfort 2014

February 2014

Any illusions Henry had that the Mise of Amiens settled everything were quashed on 15 February 1264 when the Montfortian castellan of Dover refused him entry. War had already broken out in the Marches, with Simon's older sons seizing Mortimer's castles Wigmore and Radnor. If they maltreated his wife Maud in the process, it could explain her almost demented delight in receiving Simon's head after Evesham. Edward next arrived to try and reverse the setback, only to get himself bottled up in Gloucester again. As in the previous year, he pleaded with Walter de Cantilupe for help, but once he got it, pulled another Edward, which is to say he didn't think twice about the agreement he had made. The king concluded his own controversial agreement at this time, but kept his end. He promised Roger Leybourne 'as a further grace' to answer for him against anyone still demanding redress for his wrongdoings. Henry knew he would have a lot of explaining to do to the queen and the Savoyards, but it turned out to be a year and a half before their return from exile. By that time, he and Roger were the best of friends.



Gloucester in the 18th century

The biography is just about finished. This week's work covered Evesham and here I was very fortunate to have use of 'The Last Hours of Simon de Montfort: A New Account' by Olivier de Laborderie, John Maddicott, and David Carpenter, based on material found late on the back of a genealogical roll. Here we have Simon urging his men to save themselves for the sake of their wives and children, hardly the ruthless heart of steel that has become the traditional portrayal. Hugh Despenser no doubt spoke for all of them when he replied, 'My lord, let it be. Today we shall all drink from one cup, just as we have in the past.'



On Thursday 6th February the Simon de Montfort Society will host 'Purbeck Marble, the Royal Stone' by Tim Porter. The Mortimer History Society's Spring Conference takes place on Saturday 17th May on the theme of Britain & Ireland. And it's never too early to plan for the [Leeds International Medieval Congress](#), where medieval scholar Sophie Ambler will continue her series of sessions on the Battle of Lewes on Thursday, 10th July.

Go to [simon 2014](#) to subscribe or send an email to provisions@simon2014.com.