

**Crusading Things and the Material Outremer**  
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**Non-knightly members of crusading contingents: their presence and activities as seen in John of Joinville's *Life of Saint Louis***

The following (not exhaustive) selection of extracts comes from Jean de Joinville, *Vie de Saint Louis*, ed. J. Monfrin (Paris, 1998), trans. Caroline Smith in Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades* (London, 2008). These examples concern people who appear to be members of a particular crusader's household or contingent (or closely associated with it), rather than camp followers.

§ 138: The next day, I sent her [Marie of Brienne, empress of Constantinople] cloth to make a dress and with it a piece of vair. I also sent some tirtaine and *cedal* to line the dress. My lord Philip of Nanteuil, the good knight, who was in the king's entourage, came across **my squire** as he was going to the empress. When the *preudomme* saw this, he went to the king and told him that I had deeply shamed him and the other barons by sending the empress these garments when they had not been aware of her need.

§ 154: When I returned to my *nef* I put **a squire whom I had knighted**, whose name was my lord Hugh of Vaucouleurs, into my little boat along with two most valiant young men whose names were my lord Villain of Versy and my lord William of Dammartin, between whom there was grievous ill-will.

§ 176: Very late that evening my lord Aubert of Narcy said to me that we should go and see lord Walter [of Autrèches, mortally wounded in a vainglorious assault on Muslim forces] because we had not yet done so and because he was a man of great renown and great valour. We entered his pavilion and **his chamberlain** came to meet us, asking that we walk softly so as not wake up his master. [I am assuming that chamberlains in most crusaders' households were not themselves knights, though they may have come from knightly families.]

§ 229: **One of my squires**, who had fled with my banner but had returned to me, gave me one of my Flemish horses on which I mounted and rode to the king, so that we were side by side.

§ 241: ... It happened too that one of **my bourgeois** from Joinville brought me a banner bearing my arms with an iron lance head.

§§ 255-56: ... I woke **my chamberlain**, who was sleeping at the foot of my bed, and told him he should go and see what was happening. He was very agitated when he came back, and he said to me, 'My lord, get up! Get up! Look – Saracens have arrived on foot and on horse. They have routed the king's sergeants who were guarding the engines and have driven them back onto the ropes of our tents.' I got up and threw a gambeson over my back and an iron cap onto my head and called to **my sergeants**, 'By Saint Nicholas, they'll not stay here!'

§§ 258-60: I and my knights assembled and agreed that once night had fallen we would carry off the stones with which they were barricading themselves. **One of my priests**, who was called my lord John of Voisey, had his own ideas and did not wait for this to happen. He left our camp, all alone, and advanced towards the Saracens wearing his gambeson, with his iron cap on his head and his spear trailing; the tip was tucked under his armpit so that the Saracens would not notice it... From that time onwards my priest was well known in the camp, and people pointed him out to one another and said, 'Look! There's my lord of Joinville's priest, who routed eight Saracens.'

§ 299: As a result of the wounds I received on Shrove Tuesday I was struck by the camp sickness in the mouth and legs, and by a double tertian fever and a head cold so bad that mucus streamed from my head through my nostrils. Because of these afflictions I took to my sick bed in the middle of Lent, which meant that **my priest** would sing Mass for me in my tent, at the foot of my bed. He had the same sickness I had.

§§ 318-19: ... I then called **my knights and my people** and asked them what they wanted us to do, whether to surrender ourselves to the sultan's galleys or surrender ourselves to the Saracens on land. We all agreed that we would prefer to surrender ourselves to the sultan's galleys, where they would hold all of us together, rather than surrender ourselves to the Saracens on land since they would split us up and sell us to the Bedouins. Then **my cellarer**, who was born at Doulevant, said, 'My lord, I don't agree with this decision.' I asked him what he would agree to, and he told me, 'In my opinion we should all allow ourselves to be killed; that way we will all go to paradise.' But we didn't pay any attention to him.

§§ 408-10: While I was sitting there, with no one attending to me, **a servant** wearing a red *cote* with two yellow stripes came up to me. He greeted me and asked whether I recognized him. I said I did not, and he told me that he was from Oiselay, my uncle's castle. I asked him in whose service he was and he told me he was not in anyone's service and that he would stay with me if I liked. I said that I would like it very much. He immediately went to fetch some white coifs and he combed my hair very nicely. The king then summoned me to eat with him, and I went wearing the garment that had been made for me when I was a prisoner out of scraps of my blanket. I left my blanket with the child Barthélemin, along with four lengths of camelin that had been given to me in prison for the love of God. Guillemin, my new servant, came and carved for me and he managed to get some food to the child while we were eating. My new servant told me he had arranged lodgings for me near to the baths, so that I could wash away the filth and sweat I had brought with me from prison. That evening, when I was in the bath, my heart gave out and I fainted; only with great effort was I lifted out of the bath and carried to my bed. The next day **an elderly knight** called my lord Peter of Bourbonne came to see me and I retained him in my service. He stood pledge for me in the city for the clothes and equipment I needed.

§§ 501-503: Hereafter I will tell you how I ordered and arranged my affairs during the four years I stayed in that land after the departure of the king's brothers. **I had two chaplains with me** who said my hours to me; one of them sung Mass for me as soon as the day's dawn appeared while the other waited until my knights and the knights of my battalion had got up... I bought at least a hundred barrels of wine, and I always had the best one drunk first. I diluted **the valets'** wine with water and that of **the squires** with less water. At my own table **my knights** were provided with a large flask of wine and a large flask of water, and they diluted the wine as they pleased.

§§ 509: The third judgment I saw delivered at Caesarea was this: **one of the king's sergeants**, who was known as the Glutton, laid hands on a knight from my battalion. I went to complain about this to the king. He told me that I could easily overlook this, or so it seemed to him, since the sergeant had only pushed the knight. And I told him that I certainly would not overlook it and that if he did not make amends to me I would leave his service, since his sergeants pushed knights around.

§ 583: ...I had acquired a number of hens and capons. I am not sure who had given the count [of Eu] a young bear, but he let it loose among my hens; it had killed a dozen of them before anyone arrived. **The woman who looked after the birds** beat the bear off with her stick.

§ 647: While I was sitting there **my squire**, who slept at the foot of my bed, came to me and told me that the king was awake and had asked where I was.