

The St. John Genealogy

ORIGIN AND **A**NCESTRY



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The St. John Genealogy

Origin and Ancestry

GENESIS (EXCERPT)

BY

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Volume 1 of

The St. John Genealogy Books

A Collection of Family History and
Genealogical Records for the Descendants of
Ralph of St. John
(Living about 1036-1122)

THE ST. JOHN GENEALOGY & DNA PROJECT

2021

GENESIS

[Excerpt]

Lost manuscripts of Mont-Saint-Michel

The manuscripts that detail the earliest St. Johns in St. Jean-le-Thomas, Normandy, France were held in the Cartulary of Mont-Saint-Michel until their archive was destroyed in 1944. As a result of this tragedy, only one manuscript survives from the cartulary and it is now stored in the municipal Library in Avranches. This manuscript is identified now as “Avranches, Bibliotheque municipale, MS 230”. I do not know its former identification number.

Historian and Genealogist, J. Horace Round (1854-1928) transcribed many of the Mont-Saint-Michel manuscripts during his lifetime. This published work occurred well before the cartulary was destroyed in 1944. We deem his work highly reliable because of his personal experiences with the actual manuscripts that once existed even though we can no longer peer-review his work against the originals.

Michael Delalonde authored several works regarding the remaining manuscript and other topics concerning Mont-Saint-Michel that include specific details about our St. Johns. He at the time of these works was the Curator of the Library and Museum of Avranches, where the remaining manuscript information is stored. I have chosen to deem his work highly reliable

because of his personal experiences as a highly respected Curator of the Avranches Library and Museum. It is not clear if his statements are based on the whole of the manuscript collections before 1944 or only from the sole remaining manuscript post 1944. One paper that makes some incredible statements about the St. Johns is not sourced except that it is signed by Michael Delalonde acting as Curator in 1966¹.

Digital Manuscripts Online

In 2020 and 2021, I began to find more digital records online including Avranches, Bibliotheque municipale, MS 210, which has several charters concerning St. Johns and Mont-Saint-Michel. I began to rely on these charters in their original form more so than historians and authors of the past concerning our St. Johns. It seems some charters or manuscripts were copied and stored in separate locations. This may have been a disaster recovery practice. What seems to be clear is that it is likely some records are forever destroyed and maybe more yet to be discovered in copy form. It seems MS 210 is a copy. S and † are used to denote a witness' signature and the mark of the signer followed by their respective names. Unfortunately, the original marks, it seems, were not duplicated artistically by the creator of the copy. Another indication that the manuscript appears to be a copy is that almost all the text is written in the same hand. There is even evidence of lighter pencil like marks and lines used by the author to keep the text straight and within the margins uniformly as the author copied from another document.

First St. Johns in England According to J. H. Round

For consistency with the most firmly verifiable sources, this history begins with the origin of the St. John family in Normandy and its subsequent development in England as claimed by various historical sources. Per J. H. Round, the first verified mention of the St. John surname in England is under Henry I (r. 1100-1135). Unfortunately, the bulk of Round's research on the St. John surname focused on the de Port-St. John family. While building on Round's work, I will turn the focus toward the original St. John family and then return to the de Port-St. Johns in Volume 2 of this series. The St. John (and de Port-St. John) pedigrees, per Round, were recorded by religious houses: namely, the abbeys of Mont Saint-Michel, of Lessay, of La Luzerne, of Savigny, and of

¹ Delalonde, Michel. *L'Avranchin Au Temps de Guillaume (1028-187)*. Norman Studies, 1966. pp. 89-93, part of a thematic issue: Hastings 1066-1966.

Fontevrault, with the priories of Lewes and of Boxgrove, and the abbeys of Gloucester, Abingdon, Eynsham and Osney. In support of the Norman origin of the St. Johns in England, Round identified and dated what he believed to be an 1121 A.D. document from the Cartulary of Mont-Saint-Michel that brings to light a dispute between the monks of the abbey and their neighbors at St. Jean (le Thomas) in Normandy: namely, Thomas de St. John (Thomas of St. John) and his younger brothers, John and Roger.² Saint-Jean-le-Thomas, formerly called “Saint John at the end of the sea”, was renamed by or in honor of Lord Thomas. This single document identified Thomas, John and Roger as brothers and provided our first indication of the formation of the St. John family. John and Roger were also included together by Orderic Vitalis (1075 - 1142) as being with Henry I in Normandy in 1119. Orderic Vitalis was an English chronicler and Benedictine monk alive when these St. Johns lived. Round placed Thomas in Oxfordshire as early as 1111, holding a joint sheriff position with his brother-in-law, Richard de Mont. Thomas, also in 1112, gave some land to Gloucester Abbey, but by 1130 was likely deceased. John had secured his lands in England by payment of the large sum of 160 marcs.³ The third brother, Roger, is said to be an ancestor of the de Port-St. John lineage through his descendant Mabel d’Orval. Additional records present William and Alice as siblings of this set of three brothers.

These earliest events recorded for Thomas and his brothers begin roughly 45 years after the Battle of Hastings and are therefore, with no disrespect intended to J. H. Round and others, unlikely reflective of the ‘first St. Johns’ in England. Therefore, I looked in Normandy’s history for more evidence.

First St. John in Normandy and England

The village of St. John’s recorded history begins in 917 when William I “Longsword”, 2nd Duke of Normandy, son of Rollo (Robert), held the lands. William "Longsword" donated to the abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel the lordship, church, mill, vineyards, and fisheries of the village of St. John⁴ which became part of the *Honour of St. Pair* held by Mont-Saint-Michel. According to Delalonde, Duke Robert added to the generosity of his predecessors to Mont-Saint-Michel by endowing the abbey with the seignury of Saint-Jean, on the sea, with its dependencies of Dragey,

² J. H. Round, ‘The Families of St. John and of Port’, The Genealogist, 1899

³ J. H. Round, ‘The Families of St. John and of Port’, The Genealogist, 1899

⁴ <http://www.france-voyage.com/cities-towns/saint-jean-le-thomas-17769.htm>

Poterel, Tisse, etc; the forest of Bivie and the woods of Neron; various mills at the dioceses of Avranches and Bayeux; of all that belonged to him in the valley of Beuvron, without counting half of the island of Guersney, so that he acquired the nickname of Liberal.

Alan III Duke of Brittany, in 1030, began restoring property previously donated to Mont-Saint-Michel by his father and which “negligence had caused the loss”, then he granted to the monastery the land of Bohel, with the marshes which depend on it, that of Laval, with its mill, the seignury of Montroalt with its extensions, and before leaving sent letters of this donation which he placed on the altar of Mont-Saint-Michel during the solemn celebration of Holy Mass, on the Sunday of the octave of Easter 1030.

In 1057, with troops from Avranches, Duke William began seditious movements against the army of the King of France, Henry I. By 1064 Duke William seized Dol and continued toward Dinan. These events led up to the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

Unpublished charters from the Cartulary of Mont-Saint-Michel identified the father of Thomas, John, and Roger St. John as Ralph of St. John⁵. These charters detail the misdeeds accomplished against the monks of Mont-Saint-Michel by a *lord of Avranchin*, Thomas de Saint John, his brother Roger, and their father Ralph. A charter of Henry I where Thomas, it seems, was granted Kelleythorpe in Yorkshire, England identifies for us the father of Ralph as a man named Wimund. The name Wimund at Mont-Saint-Michel lead to Wimund d’Avranches, [the vicomes of Pagus Abrincatinus (Avranches) (and probably Pagus Constantiensis (Cotentin), Pagus Oximensis (Hiemois)) of Moulin’s Castle that witnessed foundation charters with the Dukes of Normandy] and his son Wimund Felix de la Haye-Paynel of Moulins castle in Hiemes, La Haye-Pesnel castle in Normandy, and Governor of Castel Pagano in Italy.

The Viscount of Avranches exercised power in the military, judicial and financial fields over an entire territory comprising the present cantons of Avranches, Pontorson, Saint-James, Sartilly, almost all of Brecey, Ducey and La Haye-Pesnel and seven towns in the neighboring cantons⁶. The

⁵ Avranches BM 210 fol. 107r, 107v, and 108r.

⁶ Delalonde, Michel. L’Avranchin Au Temps de Guillaume (1028-187). Norman Studies, 1966. pp. 89-93, part of a thematic issue: Hastings 1066-1966.

known Viscounts of Avranches were Wimund (d. bef. 1040) and his brother Turstin le Goz, Neel St. Sauveur after Turstin's betrayal in 1043, and Turstin le Goz's son Richard after Neel's betrayal in 1047. Hughues le Loup, son of Richard le Goz. Avranches kept the issues of the rest of the Duchy away from Duke William during his minority. This loyalty to the young prince remained after he took power, on the death of his protector Alain III, Duke of Brittany. They remained loyal to Duke William up to and during the battle of Val-es-Dunes in 1047 which led to Duke William to grant Bréhal to Wimund Felix, son of Wimund d'Avranches.

By 1053, Ralph (Ralph de Moulins and de Bréhal) son of Wimund Felix participated in the Battle of Civitate and was later count of Boiano in Italy. Following his military successes and rise to power in Italy, on Christmas Day of 1054, "Radulfi de Sancto Johanne" witnessed the charter where William Pichenoht donated property to Mont-Saint-Michel. The charter for the abbey was laid on the altar of Rouen Cathedral and signed in the presence of Duke William (the Conqueror). In 1053, Wimund Felix, betrayed Duke William by failing to defend Moulin's Castle on behalf of Duke William. It seems possible, if the timeline is not coincidental and Wimund received some type of consequence for betrayal, that Ralph was made the man of St. John; these holdings were likely granted to Wimund Felix by hereditary right from his uncle Durand and now possibly revoked and given to his son, Ralph. Regardless, a St. John was documented 12 years before the Battle of Hastings and logic suggests this St. John was involved at Hastings for his children to later hold land in England.

Michael Delalonde, curator of the Library and Museum of Avranches, wrote in 1966, "Raoul de Saint-Jean, qui dirige les operations de débarquement a Pevensey et commande les machines de guerre, recevra des biens dans les comtes de Wilt et d'Oxford." Translation: "Raoul de Saint-Jean, who directs the landing operations at Pevensey and commands the war machines, will receive goods in the Earls of Wilt and Oxford." Wimund Felix appears as a subordinate to Ivo Tallesbois and Odo, Bishop of Bayeux during the Battle of Hastings while Ralph appears to have his own men subordinate to him.

Here, Delalonde, places Ralph of St. John in England as early as 1066. Specifically, Ralph of St. John is placed in Pevensey, Sussex, England on a significant date concerning the Battle of Hastings. It was where Duke William landed his invasion forces in the south of England on 28 Sep

1066 and established a beachhead for his conquest of the kingdom. Harold was forced to march south swiftly.

The English army was composed almost entirely of infantry and had a few archers, whereas only about half of the invading force was infantry, the rest split equally between cavalry and archers. While I feel confident in the information Delalonde provided in 1966, unsourced, while acting curator of the Avranches Library and Museum, I looked for other evidence to support this claim. The unpublished charters regarding St. Johns cited in another work, reference "Avranches, Bibliotheque municipale, MS 210" and not MS 230 have not yet produced this reference to Pevensey. It is not clear if there is an additional set of manuscripts in Avranches that were separate from those at the Cartulary of Mont-Saint-Michel. If so, it would explain why they were not transcribed by J. H. Round or mentioned in his St. John papers and books. At the time of this writing, I do not have a primary source for this Pavensey claim but there seems to be evidence to support it.

Battle of Hastings & the Bayeux Tapestry

Scholars have questioned whether Ralph of St. John was present at the Battle of Hastings and scoffed at unsourced claims suggesting he was. While there has been scarce explicit evidence naming 'Ralph of St. John' there, and the Domesday record shows no lands held by that name, we can be certain Ralph was heavily involved and present. Ralph of St. John witnessed a grant in 1066 at Bonneville indicating he was with close association to Duke William at the time summer preparations were being made for the *Norman Invasion of England*. "*The men of St. Johan e de Bréhal*" are spoken of at Hastings in the Roman de Rou. Evidence I have collected will clearly show Ralph de Saint-Jean was also known as 1) Seigneur [the lord of the manor] de Saint-Jean, 2) Ralph de Bréhal, 3) Ralph de Molise/Moulins in Italy, and 4) Ralph Paynel. The Chronique de Normandie, based on le Roman de Rou, names "le sire de S. Jehan" among those who took part in the conquest of England in 1066. The Falaise Roll calls him 'Raoul Painel' and his brother, William Paynel I, 'William St. John'. And Ralph's entries in the Domesday record were under simply 'Ralph' and 'Lands of Ralph Paganel'. Scholars were unaware that these entries reflected Ralph of St. John and therefore argued against his participation. And it is certainly plausible that Ralph of St. John is depicted in one or more of the scenes of the Bayeux tapestry.

It was in Italy, Normans most likely learned to transport horses on ships, and their Norman calvary forces were an important part of the Sicilian military victories. It seems almost certain that William the Conqueror used this information to effectively transport horses to England, and the Norman calvary from Italy was critical to the victory at Hastings. This is supported by Bernard S. Bachrach in his paper, "On the Origins of William the Conqueror's Horse Transports". While Bachrach does not necessarily link his conclusions to Ralph of St. John, or Ralph di Molise, Count of Bioano in Italy, he makes a strong argument that Norman forces in Italy brought transports from Italy to Normandy. Coupled with Delalonde's claim of Ralph at Pavensey, it seems highly likely Ralph of St. John led or participated in this command effort.

Excerpts from On the Origins of William the Conqueror's Horse Transports

Any notion that horses in large numbers can be embarked without special technology, transported across rough seas without solidly constructed stalls in ships with low freeboard, and disembarked ready for combat without landing ramps must be rejected. In late January or early February of 1066, when William faced the problem of acquiring horse transports, the north of Europe had not witnessed a major amphibious operation in which several thousand mounted fighting men were scheduled to disembark in combat-ready condition from ships capable of a Channel crossing since Julius Ceasar's campaign in 54 B.C. (24) From time to time a band of Vikings is reported to have transported some horses by sea.

William of Poitiers indicated that on landing, Duke William led a fully armed mounted force of substantial size on a reconnaissance mission. (39) In addition, the artist who executed the drawing of the Bayeux Tapestry shows a contingent of fully armed Norman troops on horseback departing from a beached ship. Not knowing how this landing was accomplished in a technical sense, the artist employed an illustrative convention and showed the rear leg of the last horse overlapping the prow of the ship. (40) Wace provided a detailed account of William's uneventful landing. First, Wace maintains that the archers came ashore, advanced inland, and fanned out to secure a perimeter. Then the mounted troops followed in complete armor, wearing mail coat, shield, and helmet with sword on the side and lance in hand. (42) This deployment conforms to a textbook model for securing a position in a potentially dangerous situation. It is what we should expect of a commander with William's experience and prudence. (43)

In southern Europe and the Mediterranean before 1066, in contrast with the north, there had been a continuous history of military landing operations with horses. The Byzantines used specially built ships, *hippagoi*, for this purpose. (44) During the first half of the 10th century they transported mounted forces which on at least two occasions numbered more than 4, 000 effectives. (45) Byzantine operations against Crete in 961 and against Sicily in 964 also saw the landing of mounted troops from special transports. In 1025 and again in 1038, the Byzantines landed horsemen in Sicily. During the latter campaign, a substantial force of Norman mounted troops were ferried to the island as part of the Byzantine army. (46)

The Normans in Italy who worked with the Byzantines learned very quickly. The Byzantines organized their cavalry on the basis of ten-man units which were formed into field commands of 300 horsemen (*bandon* and *tegma*). (47) Each man in these units owned his own equipment and his own mount. (48) During the 11th century the Normans came to Italy in small groups with no military organization of their own; they had only their horses and their personal equipment. (49) As soon as the Normans began to organize, however, they adopted the 300-man field-command system based on units of ten men. (50) This enabled them to be integrated into Byzantine military operations such as the garrison of Troia in 1019, (51) the army of George Maniakes in 1038, (52) and the strike force of the *topoterites* of Melfi in 1041, without causing tactical and logistical dislocations. (53) By adopting the Byzantine system based on a unit of organization of ten men, the Normans could use imperial horse transports without having to break up their formations and so endanger their battle-ready status when landing (54)

Between 1060 and 1064, the Normans used horse transports commandeered in Italian ports, and they made no less than eight separate landings with mounted troops in Sicily. (55) Many Italian ports that were either under direct Norman control or to which they had ready access boasted a long tradition of building ships for the Byzantines, (57) and in several cities such as Pisa, Gaeta, Naples, Amalfi, Sorrento, and Messina there were shipyards that were or had been administered by the Byzantine government. (58) With these resources the Normans in southern Italy and Sicily secured enough horse transports to handle their needs and did not find it worthwhile to build new ships in any noteworthy number until 1076. (59)

Guy of Amien's observed that men from **Apulia**, Calabria, and Sicily served in William's invasion force which suggests the most obvious conduit through which Byzantine designs for

horse transports could have been transmitted from the south of Italy or Sicily to Normandy.
(52)

Ralph di Molise in Apulia, Italy

Apulia, Italy was where the de Hauteville family made their own state. Ralph married, as his first wife, Alferada de Hauteville, the daughter of Robert Guiscard de Hauteville. Robert Guiscard's brother William d. 1046 with other Normans fought as mercenaries for the Byzantine Empire. William was later elected by the Normans as their count and received lands around Melfi. In 1044 he began the conquest of Calabria. His brother Drogo became known after William's death as Count of the Normans in all Apulia and Calabria.

Robert Guiscard (d. 1085) was a Norman adventurer remembered for the conquest of southern Italy and Sicily. He was count of Apulia and Calabria 1057-1059, then Duke of Apulia and Calabria and Duke of Sicily 1059-1085 and briefly Prince of Benevento 1078-1081 before returning the title to the Pope.

Ralph of St. John, also known as Ralph de Moulins, was Robert Guiscard's companion and son-in-law. After it was conquered by Robert Guiscard, Bojano or Boiano, Molise, south-central Italy was ruled by Ralph of St. John, count of Boiano. During Duke William's efforts at Hastings, Ralph had direct access and kinship to the Norman government in Italy and fought with them in various battles where he must have had a strong leadership role under Robert Guiscard. He was certainly qualified to support Duke William's efforts.

Battle of Hastings

William, with the aid of the Normans in Italy, put approximately 3,000 horses on 700 small sailing ships and headed across the channel to England. The Bayeux Tapestry gives us a keen insight into the weapons that were wielded in the Battle of Hastings. It is estimated there were over 1,000 Norman archers. They played an important part in the battle, especially after William ordered them to shoot high, firing their arrows onto the heads of the Saxons behind their shield-wall. Most Norman knights carried long spears called lances. The knights were armored warriors fighting on horseback with lance, sword, and shield. They were the Norman secret weapon at the Battle of Hastings. Nothing like them had been seen in England, before. For though the Saxons rode to battle or on journeys, they always fought on foot. There were between 1000 and 2000

knights in the Norman army and it was these who mainly won William's victory. Norman knights were trained from childhood to fight on horseback. Known as destriers and often stallions, their warhorses were bred to carry armored men. These horses also fought for themselves, biting opponents or lashing with their hooves. The 1066 Norman army included many groups of knights who were used to fighting side by side under the same leaders. So, they stuck together when doing difficult things like pretending to flee, but then turning and cutting down their Saxon pursuers⁷.

The Bayeux Tapestry

As previously stated, Ralph of St. John, while in Italy probably learned to transport horses by ship. Here in this segment of the Bayeux Tapestry, horses are shown on the ships with just their heads appearing above the deck.



The segment below shows horses being unloaded from ships at Pevensey in the south of England. From there they rode toward Hastings. Roman de Rou also indicates the men of St. John and Brehal used *sharp arrows* to put out the eyes of many an Englishman. And interestingly, as previously stated, “Raoul de Saint-Jean, qui dirige les opérations de débarquement à Pevensey et commande les machines de guerre, recevra des biens dans les comtés de Wilt et d’Oxford,” which translates to: Ralph of St. John, who directs landing operations at Pevensey and commands the war machines, will receive goods in Wilt and Oxford counties.

⁷ <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/1066-and-the-norman-conquest/the-weaponry-of-1066/>



In 1735, a claim was made that the St. John at Hastings “attended the Army as Grand Master of the Artillery and Supervisor of the wagons and carriages, for which reason the Horse Hames or Collar were born for his Congnizance.” Unfortunately, this claim is also not sourced that I have found. Modern researchers, discrediting the claim, argue these military terms simply did not exist during the time of William the Conqueror and must be false rather than modernized by the author that wrote them. Regardless, it does appear there could be some truth to Ralph’s involvement with ‘war machines’, ‘artillery’, ‘wagons’, and ‘carriages’ with respect to the strategic military use of horses and arrows (spears) at Hastings. While I have found no evidence the St. John heraldry contained horse hames or collars, the St. John shield originally had two ‘pierced stars’ with numerous points, more like a spur used on horses rather than like a star. In France, in much later centuries, this ‘star’ was depicted with just six points and in England heralds reduced the points to five. The following segment of the Bayeux tapestry, that pictorially details the events at Hastings, shows men on horses, holding long arrows (spears/lances) and using on their horses’ stirrups and spurs. The last part shows a man on a horse piercing the eye area of an Englishman with his weapon. This depiction could certainly represent the men of St. John and Bréhal.



The next scene below shows the cart containing weapons and men carrying weaponry in preparation of the battle. The charter in the summer of 1066 at Bonneville, places Ralph St. John as present during this preparations event. Perhaps this is where Ralph might also be depicted.



Ralph of St. John at Hastings

It is my belief that Ralph of St. John, Count of Bioano, Italy, did exactly as Delalonde and Wace said, "Raoul de Saint-Jean, who directs the landing operations at Pevensey and commands the war machines, will receive goods in the Earls of Wilt and Oxford." These 'war machines' were the Byzantine influenced and supplied ships that were designed to transport mounted knights on horses that landed at Pavensey battle-ready in complete armor, wearing mail coat, shield, and helmet with sword on the side and lance in hand ready to poke the eyes of the English.

Return to Normandy

Ralph held half of St. Jean-le-Thomas for twenty sous⁸ each year at the Montmartin fair which constituted the prebende⁹ of **Lambert the goldsmith**¹⁰. The other half was held by Mont-Saint-Michel.

Between 1067-1081, following success at Hastings, Ralph's father Wimund Felix, built himself a new castle called La Haye-Pesnel and members of the family began adopting the Haye and Paynel surnames.

⁸ A French coin of little value.

⁹ A portion of the revenues of a cathedral or collegiate church formerly granted to a canon or member of the chapter as a stipend.

¹⁰ Preterea detinet (Thomas) viginti solidos quos pater suus Radulfus reddebat per singulos annos pro medietate Sancti Johannis que fuit prebenda Lanberti aurifabri. Cartulary of Mont Saint-Michel, ..., fol. 107 v °.

In 1070-81, William Paynel (I), Ralph's brother, was party to an agreement between himself and Mont-Saint-Michel regarding the military service by which he held of the abbot several manors, in La Manche, constituting an honour that had been given to him in marriage. In 1076, 'Raoul de Saint-Jean' witnessed the charter where his uncle 'Guillaume fitz-Guimond, seigneur d'Avranches' [William son of Wimund, lord of Avranches] gave the donation of Luot to Mont-Saint-Michel that William held by hereditary right by his *father's house*¹¹. In 1086, Ralph de Saint John witnessed a charter by Robert FitzHamon at Mont-Saint-Michel¹². Following the death of Duke William in 1087, Ralph removed four saltworks and the land of a certain Serlon (his son-in-law) from the abbey of Mont Saint-Michel¹³.

Domesday Books

Ralph was a Domesday holder in 1086 and held many lands that were likely divided up among his children and their spouses. In **West Rasen**, "Rolf [St. John-Paynel] had 5 bovates of land to the geld and 2 parts of a bovate. [There is] land for 1 ½ plough;" and Ralph's father, Wimund, "the bishop's man, has 1 plough there, and 7 villans and 3 bordars with 1 plough, and 2 mills [rendering] 6s, and [there are] 61 acres of meadow"¹⁴. West Rasen was worth 20s in 1066 and 30s in 1086. This West Rasen property passed in part from Wimund to his son Ralph St. John, who already held the other part, then passed the whole of it to his son William Paynel (II), who then passed it to his son Hugh Paynel of West Rasen d. c. 1179.

Identification of Ralph of St. John

Ralph of St. John, son of Wimund Felix de la Haye-Paynel, of la Haye-Pesnel castle, and of Moulin's Castle in Heimes, and of Castle Pagano in Italy, was known by several by-names: Paynel, de Moulins/Molise, de St. John, de Bréhal, Count Boiano', simply 'Ralph', or as 'Ralph son of Wimund', without a by-name. Because this aforementioned information escaped the purview of historians and academicians, Ralph of St. John is not represented in history correctly. Ralph St. John's contributions have been confounded with those of his son Ralph di Molise-Paynel (II). The

¹¹ Cartulary of Mont St.-Michel, folios 83v and 84. (Bibliothèque d'Avranches, Manuscript 210)

¹² Genestal, Robert. Role of credit établissements comme des monasteres: etude en Normandie du ... pg 219-220. Cartulary of Mont St.-Michel, folio 79v.

¹³ Radulfus by Sancto Johanne tollit Sancto Michaeli. IIIOT. salinaa and terram Serlonis. Cartulary of Mont Saint-Michel, ..., fol. 110 r °.

¹⁴ Great Domesday Book. National Archive of Kew reference E 31/2/2/7009. 1086. folio 342v.

St. John Genealogy and DNA project attempts to correct Ralph's historical record and his life's legacy while documenting his descendants with primary records and DNA evidence.