



The St. John Genealogy  
**Newsletter**  
 Est. 2018

*in this issue >>>*

- *The identity and origin of Ralph St. John*



Volume 3  
 Issue 1

2020

An Insight into the St. John Family of Highlight

# FOCUS ON *primary*records



*current topics >>>*

## Why a family newsletter

*By Suzanne St. John*

The St. Johns of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales are *lost* in Modern History. The individuals of this family, their ancestors and descendants have been merged, confounded, and obliterated into non-existence by well-meaning researchers, heralds, and family before us. It is our responsibility and right to honor our ancestors based on the primary records that have been left for us. We owe it to them as genealogical preservationists to correct the historical record and the public's understanding.

For more information go to  
[www.stjohngenealogy.com](http://www.stjohngenealogy.com)  
 or email [stjohngenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:stjohngenealogy@gmail.com)



Write for us >>>

# Submitting articles for future publications

The articles will be sent in Word Format to:  
[stjohngenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:stjohngenealogy@gmail.com)

## Focus

We seek articles on the St. John families that are direct ancestors or descendants of the St. Johns of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales. This forum encourages descendants and avid researchers with any level of writing skill to participate. We can always find persons to help edit and improve submissions. The family tree at [www.stjohngenealogy.com](http://www.stjohngenealogy.com) is the primary tree we use, update, and correct.

## Types

- Immigrant origins with a genealogical summary.
- Problem solving articles with genealogical summary.
- Genealogical accounts of families, especially families for which no genealogy now exists.
- Source Material
- Current Events
- Common Bonds
- Brick walls
- Help requests
- DNA discoveries
- Phonetic variations
- Newly discovered branches
- Persons or Events of Interest
- Biographies

## Writing Guidelines

- Microsoft Word, 12-point type
- Citations for each statement of fact that is not common knowledge. Each should be cited to one or more reliable sources; primary sources preferred.

## Submission Guidelines

- Submit a description of your article in advance.
- Limit to 6000 words or less
- Consider including digital copies or scans of original documents
- Do not submit articles that have been published before
- Do not submit articles you are submitting elsewhere
- Include author's direct lineage up to Christopher St. John 1547-1616 of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales if known.
- A PDF digital copy of your article once published will be attached to your person record on our website

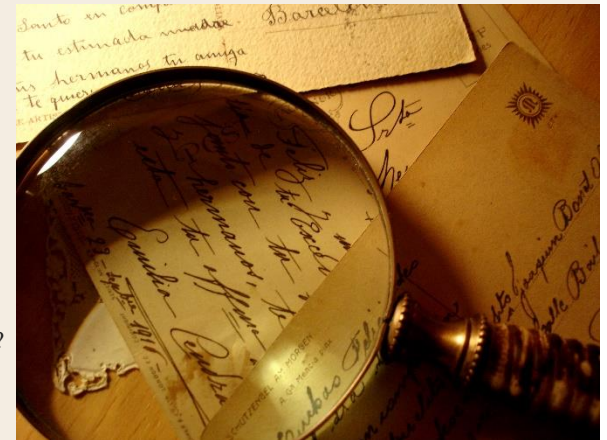
## Primary records >>>

# Primary Records and Documents for Genealogy

Primary source materials include such resources as vital records (birth, marriages, and death), abstracts of wills, court records, town records, city directories, church (parish) registers, census, newspapers, land deeds, military lists, passenger list, heraldry trees, Visitation reports, tax rolls, archeological reports, and family folklore.

## Evaluate the Evidence

- How helpful is the evidence?
- How reliable is the evidence?
- Is it valid for meeting the research objective and does it produce some level of proof?
- Is it objective evidence
- Does it answer questions
- Does it stand on its own merit?
- Do others interpret it differently



Remember all records are not equal



# St. John Genealogy & DNA

*Social Media is a great way to connect with other St. Johns, share information, ask questions, and learn. In addition to this newsletter, we have a Facebook page and group!*



[www.facebook.com/groups/stjohngenealogy](http://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohngenealogy)

**Groups Insights**

<b>64</b> +3.1K% New Members Last 28 Days	<b>590</b> +37% Posts, Comments and Reactions Last 28 Days	 Julie Kaufman, Jeff St John and others are top contributors.
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Events Calendar Settings + Create Event

September 2017

- St. John Family Reunion**  
Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 11 PM CDT  
Jason J St. John and 74 other guests  
You hosted.
- International Talk Like a Pirate Day 2017**  
Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 12 AM  
1 guest  
You hosted.



## Preserve your DNA for the future

*We are looking for DNA test subjects with a documented and provable St. John lineage to participate in our ongoing Genealogical and DNA study. Collections kits obtain saliva for testing. They are non-invasive, painless and private.*

## Volunteer Job Role openings

- Writer:** A writer is someone who uses descriptive and engaging written language to create historical profiles and summaries of our St. John ancestors.
- Technical Author:** A writer that specializes in explaining genealogical and other technical processes in a simple, easy to understand, manner.
- Copy Editor:** makes sure that published or soon to be published works are free of spelling and grammar errors.
- Editorial Assistant:** helps with the general running of the newsletter, from administrative to editorial.
- Art Editor:** creates an overall look of the newsletter, making sure it's both attractive and easy to read.

If any of these VOLUNTEER job roles interest you, please send an email to [stjohngenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:stjohngenealogy@gmail.com)

### ask the experts >>>

**Q:** Why should I upgrade to Big-Y at FTDNA?

*Y-DNA can help you determine if two men with the same (or similar) surname share the same male common ancestor. The Big Y-700 actually includes two tests:*

**A:** *one that can help make more distant ancestral connections, and one that helps with more recent connections. ~ FamilyTreeMagazine.com*

*The St. John Project needs Big Y test results to confirm lineages are biologically intact back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century.*



# The identity and origin of Ralph St. John

## How a 'Lost Act' of Henry I led to the discovery of Thomas fitz Ralph fitz Wimund

By Suzanne St. John with research assistance by Lynne C. Morris

### Introduction

Over a year ago, in Volume 2 Issue 2 of this newsletter, I shared a possible identification of Ralph St. John as Ralph de Conteville, the son of Herluin de Conteville. Early this year, however, I made a discovery that proved that possibility wrong and, without any remaining doubt, this new information finally led me to the discovery of Ralph St. John's correct identity and origin.

During the reign of Henry I., Thomas of St. Jean-le-Thomas first appeared in the historical records witnessing various charters in Avranches, a commune in the Manche department in the Normandy region in northwestern France and in England, namely, Westminster, Oxfordshire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Berkshire, Yorkshire, and for Abingdon Abbey in Oxfordshire<sup>1</sup>. Orderic Vitalis records that "*Thoma de Sancto Johanne*" ineffectively blockaded Tinchebrai on behalf of Henry I., King of England, in 1106<sup>2</sup>. The Chronicle of Abingdon records that King Henry I. appointed "*Thoma de Sancto Johanne ac Ricardo de Monte*" as "*Oxenfordscire vicecomitibus*" at Oxford in 1111<sup>3</sup>. Matthew of Paris quotes a charter dated 1116 of King Henry I. which records his grant of Biscot, Bedfordshire to the abbey of St Albans, witnessed by "*...Adam de Port, Thoma de Sancto Johanne, Willelmus frater eius, Hugo de Gornaio*"<sup>4</sup>. A charter dated to 1121 records that "*Thomas de Sancto Johanne*" had constructed his castle at Saint-Jean with wood taken from land of the abbey of Saint-Michel, disputed with the monks there and records his donation in settlement of their claim, signed by "*Thoma, Johanne fratre eius et Rogerio*"<sup>5</sup>. A charter dated to 1123 x 1129 records a donation by King Henry I. to Mont-Saint-Michel, witnessed by "*...Thoma de Sancto Johanne*"<sup>6</sup>. Between 1115 x 1123, "*Thomas de St John has held a charitable manor*" in Standish<sup>7</sup>. And by 1130, it 'appears' Thomas had died because his brother John "*renders account of 160 silver marks for the land of his brother Thomas in England*"<sup>8</sup>.

### St. Johns at St. Jean-le-Thomas

At St. Jean-le-Thomas, we learn from Thomas's dispute with the monks at Mont-St.-Michel, in the Diocese of Avranches, that he grew up there and that as a boy, he and his brothers, John and Roger, were educated by the monks. We also learn that he had a nephew named Ralph de Port. Besides the brothers, Thomas, William, John and Roger, the only other person with a 'de Sancto Johanne' by-name found there is Ralph de Sancto Johanne. At Christmas 1054, regarding a charter of William Pichenoht, Ralph de Sancto Johanne was identified as one of St. Michael's men<sup>9</sup>. A 'man' in this context is a person who owes service to another. A man would need to work the land, pay any taxes or homage necessary to the noble that ruled over the area, and fulfil any other responsibilities demanded of him.

Wace's *Roman de Rou* by Glyn S Burgess states the St. Johns were '*de Saint Johan e de Bréhal*'. It goes on to say that Ralph of Saint-Jean-le-Thomas was present at Bonneville in 1066 and that he was almost certainly at the Battle of Hastings. The Complete Peerage states that Saint-Jean-le-Thomas was in the Cotentin, Normandy in the commune of Avranches, Manche which was a fief of the abbey of Saint-Michael<sup>10</sup>. The *Chronique de Normandie*, based on *le Roman de Rou*, names "*le sire de S. Jehan*" among those

<sup>1</sup> "Thomas St. John, I, of Stanton-St. John & St. Jean-le-Thomas". The St. John Genealogy. <https://www.stjohngenealogy.com/getperson.php?personID=I10625&tree=OSA0001> (accessed March 16, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Orderic Vitalis (Prévost), Vol. IV, Liber XI, XX, p. 224.

<sup>3</sup> Abingdon Chronicle, Vol. II, p. 119.

<sup>4</sup> Matthew Paris, Vol. VI, 22, p. 36

<sup>5</sup> Round (1899), 710, p. 252.

<sup>6</sup> Round (1899), 723, p. 259. Renders ac

<sup>7</sup> Deeds Documents of Early England Data Set. *Regesta Henrici Primi, 1100-1135* [London], Charter number 03781407.

<https://deeds.library.utoronto.ca/charters/03781407>

<sup>8</sup> Pipe Roll 31 Hen I., Michaelmas 1130, rot. 1r, mem. 1 for Oxfordshire;

[http://www.law.harvard.edu/faculty/cdonahue/courses/lhsemelh/materials/PipeRoll31H1\\_PRS78.pdf](http://www.law.harvard.edu/faculty/cdonahue/courses/lhsemelh/materials/PipeRoll31H1_PRS78.pdf) pg. 3

<sup>9</sup> 'La Manche: Part 1', in *Calendar of Documents Preserved in France 918-1206*, ed. J Horace Round (London, 1899), pp. 249-280. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/cal-state-papers/france/918-1206/pp249-280> [accessed 17 March 2020]. Cartulary of Mont-St. Michel's archives, Trans. Vol. 1I, fo. 234 and Cartulary, fo. 31d.

<sup>10</sup> CP XI 340.

who took part in the conquest of England in 1066<sup>11</sup>. It has been widely accepted in the genealogical community that Ralph was the father to Thomas and his brothers but without evidence this is mere speculation. Hindering it further is the fact that it was a gap of 55 years between when Ralph was identified as living to when Thomas had his dispute with the monks.<sup>12</sup>

Another issue rests in the fact that Ralph of St. John or of Bréhal does not appear in Domesday. If he participated at Hastings and lived through the Battle of Hastings and his sons were in proximity to Henry I., then we should find some trace of him after 1066. It then seems likely that maybe Ralph was not the father of Thomas but perhaps his grandfather, instead; but there had been no evidence of this either. Early genealogical claims gave Thomas of St. John a father named William, but the William used for such claims lived nearly a century later and not between 1066 x 1121.

### Unpublished Charters of Mont Saint-Michel

In 2020, I learned of some unpublished charters at Mont Saint-Michel that identify the father of Thomas, John, and Roger St. John. They 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. Here I found myself certain Ralph was the father finally but no closer to identifying him.

### Stanton-St. John, Oxfordshire

Stanton-St. John, where we find Thomas's brother, John St. John, is a parish, in the union of Headington, Hundreds of Bullingdon, county of Oxford. Between 1135 and 1150 John de St. John, then lord of Stanton, granted the parish church to Eynsham Abbey<sup>13</sup>. In 1086 Ilbert de Lacy held 10 hides in *Stantone* of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux<sup>14</sup>. He is also entered in Domesday Book as holding of Odo two other tenements in Stanton each assessed at one hide. These later became attached to Forest Hill, and their descent is traced in the history of that parish<sup>15</sup>. Ilbert's Domesday holding of ten hides had passed to the St. John family by 1149<sup>16</sup> and possibly by 1135<sup>17</sup>.

### Alice St. John

*Domesday Descendants* names "*Richard de Monte (Mont Saint-Michel) and Alice, sister of John of St John*" as the parents of Gilbert de Monte<sup>18</sup>. The *Rotuli de Dominabus* records that "*heres Gilberti de Monte...xv annorum*" was "*nepos Thome de Sancto Johanne et Johannis de Sancto Johanne et Hugonis de Plugenet et Willelmi Fossard*"<sup>19</sup>. While it is not entirely clear, it seems to indicate that Thomas and John St. John probably married, each, one of the daughter(s) of Hugh Plugenet and William Fossard so that Gilbert de Monte was the nephew to the two St. John brothers and their wives.

### Hugh Plugenet

Hugh Plugenet was lord of Headington Manor, and feudal lord in the north suburb of Oxford<sup>20</sup>. Hugh Plugenet was the husband of Sybil de Dinant of Lamburne, the daughter of Josceus de Dinant and Sybil de Lacy of Ludlow Castle, daughter of Walter de Lacy. In 1195, "*Hawisa de Dinant appointed Fulk fitz Warren ... the place of memory for dead ancestors unrecorded ... Sybil de Dinant [the mother of] his wife instead uses*". This seems to indicate that Sybil (de Dinant) de Plugenet's sister Hawisa appointed Fulk fitz Warren to her nieces' [Stanton-St. John] estate. This is further supported when, "*Fulk fitz Warren instead of his wife Hawise*

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<sup>11</sup> *Extrait de la Chronique de Normandie*, RHGF XIII, p. 237.

<sup>12</sup> The dating of these events is not necessarily accurate, or the methods used consist. It is not the position of this paper to argue the dating conclusions but to only provide the evidence as it appears regarding these persons before said dates were assigned; dates then may need further evaluation based on these new details.

<sup>13</sup> *Eynsham Cart.* i. 118.

<sup>14</sup> *V.C.H. Oxon.* i. 405.

<sup>15</sup> *V.C.H. Oxon.* i. 125

<sup>16</sup> For the hidage of the St. John manor see *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii. 39.

<sup>17</sup> *Eynsham Cart.* i. 118.

<sup>18</sup> *Domesday Descendants*, p. 594, citing Cartulary of Evesham, p. 174.

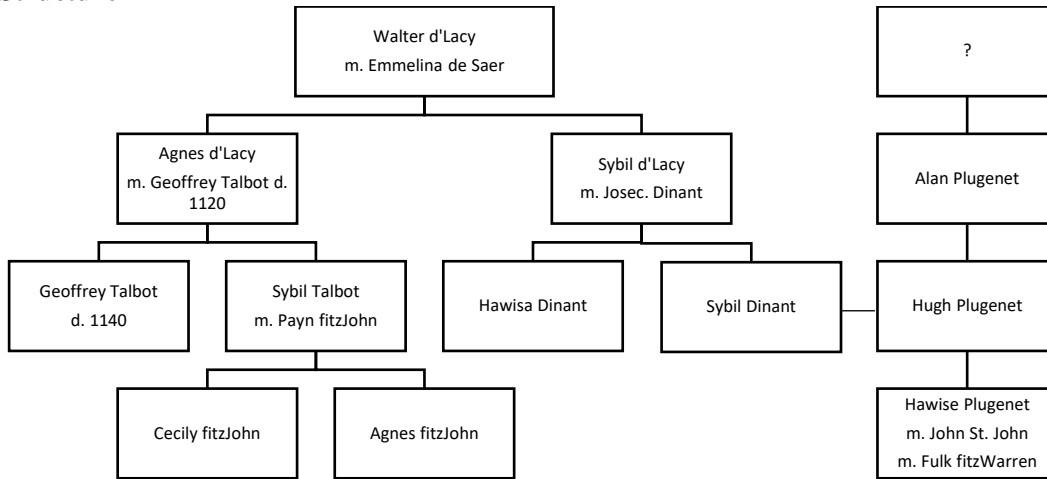
<sup>19</sup> *Rotuli Dominabus, Rotuli III, Norhamtonsire*, Hundredo de Suttone, p. 15.

<sup>20</sup> Clark, Andrew. *The English Register of Oseney Abbey*, by Oxford written about 1460. Early English Text Society (1907): Original Series, issue 133 page 9;

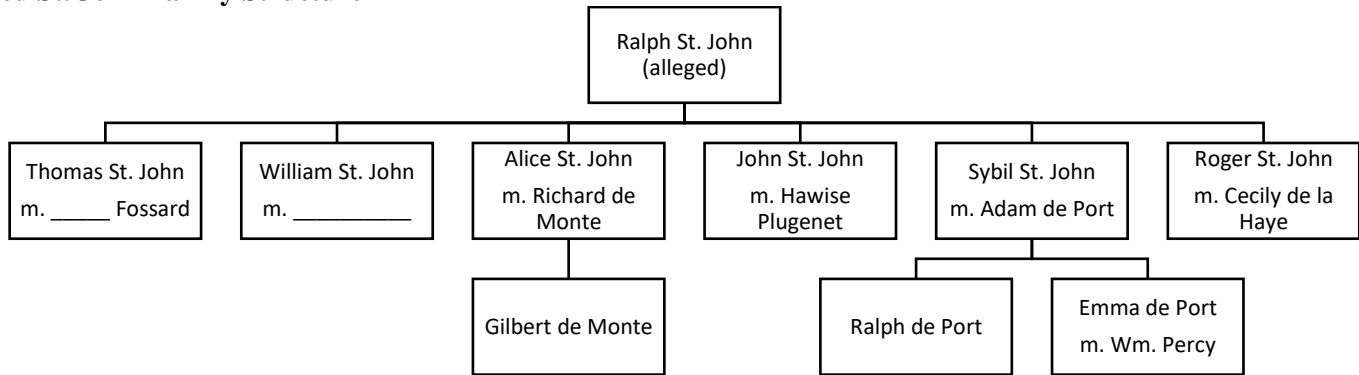
[https://books.google.com/books?id=Xqy0AAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=Xqy0AAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false)

through/portal Sibill wife of Hugh de Plugenet ...”<sup>21</sup>. It seems reasonable that John St. John of Stanton-St. John married Hawise de Plugenet, the daughter of Hugh de Plugenet and Sybil de Dinant, named after her aunt. She probably then married Fulk fitzWarren about 1165 following John St. John’s death. By assigning Hugh de Plugenet as the father of John St. John’s wife, it then seems likely that Thomas St. John married a daughter of William Fossard.

### Plugenet Family Structure<sup>22</sup>



### Alleged St. John Family Structure



### William Fossard

*William Fossard* is a name that appears in Yorkshire, England as a descendant of Domesday Tenant, Nigel Fossard<sup>23</sup>. Nigel Fossard was one of two major Domesday tenants in Yorkshire holding land of Robert de Conteville, Count of Mortain. The other major tenant was Richard de Sourdeval. Robert de Conteville, Count of Mortain was the brother of Odo de Conteville, Bishop of Bayeux who was lord of Stanton-St. John. Robert and Odo de Conteville were also the half-brothers of William the Conqueror. Willelm Fossard held land according to Domesday Descendants<sup>24</sup>. A search of Domesday for Nigel produced two interesting entries. One for *Robert son of Nigel*, of the family in Yorkshire and *William son of Nigel* whose land holdings were in Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. An internet search of “Willielmo Fossardo” and “de Sancto Johanne” produced a hit in Early Yorkshire charters. The result for “de Sancto Johanne” was regarding a 1123-1124 Confirmation by Hugh de Laval where Thomas declared: “I Thomas of St. John support this” contained within the heading *The Lacey Fee: Pontefract Endowments*<sup>25</sup>. The Stanton-St. John property was part of the Honour of Pontefract.

<sup>21</sup> Palgrave, Sir Francis. *Rotuli curiae regis : rolls and records of the court held before the King's justiciars or justices*, (1835) Vol. 1 pgs. 35 and 169.

<sup>22</sup> "Sybil de Dinant, of Lamburne, Berskhire, England". The St. John Genealogy. <https://www.stjohngenealogy.com/getperson.php?personID=I105552264&tree=OSA0001> (accessed March 17, 2020).

<sup>23</sup> <https://opendomesday.org/name/nigel-fossard/>

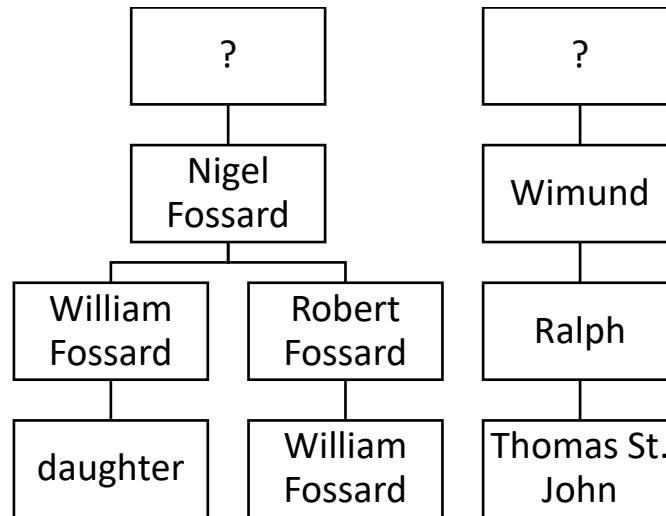
<sup>24</sup> Hugh, Kendall P. *History of the Old Castle of Mulgrave*. A. Brown & Sons, Ltd., Hull. 1948. pp. 11-12.

<sup>25</sup> Chartulary of Pontefract, at Woolley Hall, f. lb. Pd. In *Chartulary of Pontefract*, n. 3; Mon.Angl., v, 12, n.3.; <https://archive.org/details/earlyyorkshirech03farruoft/page/180/mode/2up/search/%22sancto+johanne%22> pg. 181.

## A 'Lost Act' of Henry I

David X Carpenter in his paper *Wimund: Fossard Tenant in Yorkshire* identifies a *Thomas son of Ralph son of Wimund* where a Wimund and later a Ralph were tenants to the Fossards. Thomas son of Ralph son of Wimund was granted by Henry I. a property known as Kelleythorpe in Yorkshire<sup>26</sup>. In Domesday, Kelleythorpe, Driffield, Yorkshire was held by King William in 1086. Sometime in the reign of Henry I., (1100-1135), Thomas son of Ralph son of Wimund received this grant. Carpenter refers to this act as a 'Lost Act' of Henry I. "giving six carucates in Kelleythorpe in the king's soke of Driffield (Yorks ER). 1100 x 1135" that was only made known by the fact that it was confirmed at two later dates. The act was confirmed in 1189 and again in March 1227. The first confirmation of Henry's 'Lost Act' in 1189 was witnessed by William St. John. So, now we have 1) a Thomas St. John and William St. John in Yorkshire, 2) a Thomas son of Ralph son of Wimund family as tenants of the Fossard family in Yorkshire, and 3) a confirmed Henry I. grant witnessed by William St. John given to a Thomas son of Ralph son of Wimund in Yorkshire and 4) we also have the claim regarding Gilbert de Monte that he was the *Nepos* of Thomas St. John and William Fossard, whereby it seems logical Thomas St. John married a William Fossard's daughter just as John likely married Hawise de Plugenet. Assuming Thomas St. John is the receiver of Henry I's grant, then the two families side-by-side, upon Thomas marrying a daughter of William Fossard, would appear as:

### Fossard family structure



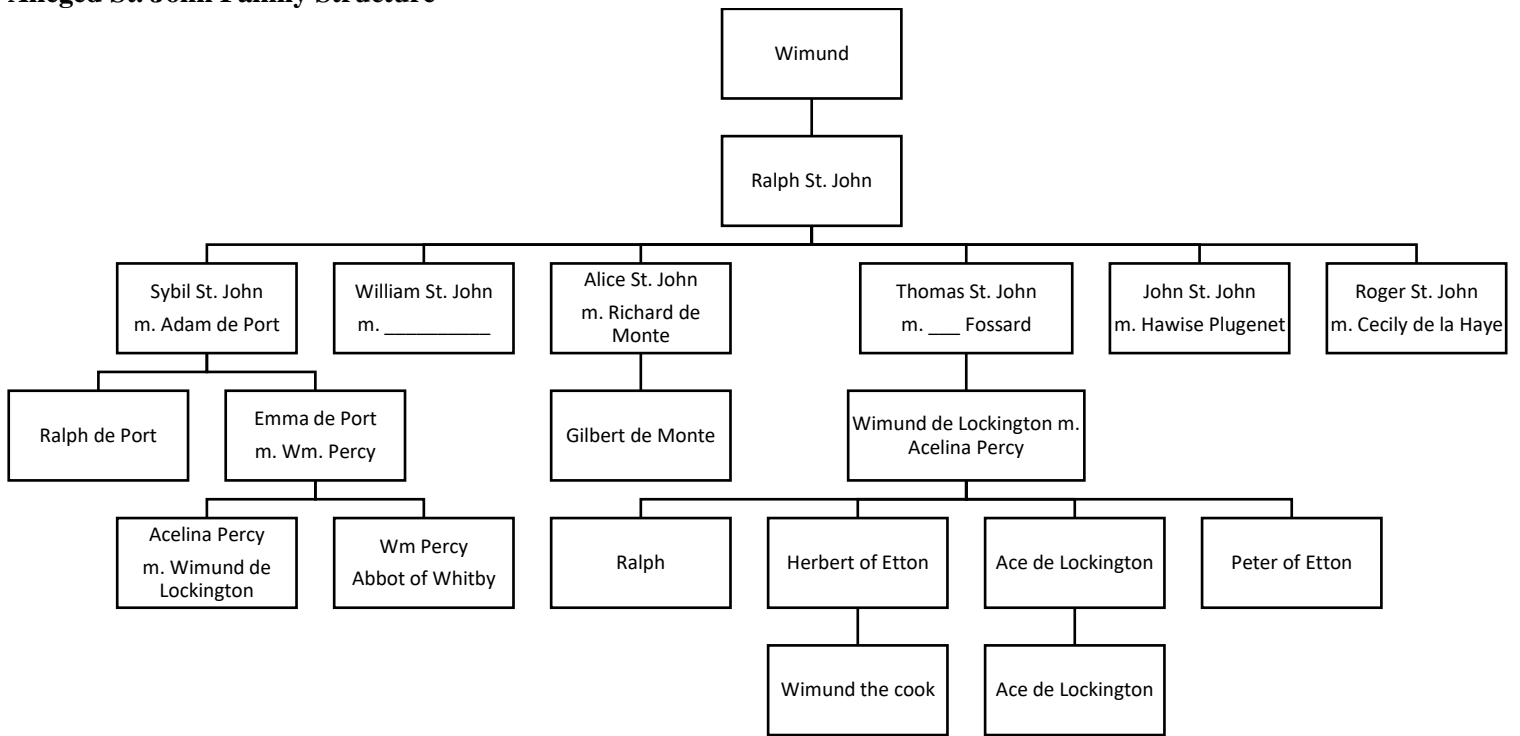
### Ralph son of Wimund of Yorkshire, England

Wimund, according to Carpenter, must surely be Wimund, dapifer, who attested William Fossard's deed giving one carucate in Roxby to the monks of Whitby 'quam antea pater meus dederat', together with one carucate in his fee in Butterwick, which Durand had given. Farrer dated the deed 1136 x 1150 but Carpenter states, "but it is perhaps earlier". Because Carpenter was unable to identify this family origin, he wasn't sure where to place people and then recognize when names were duplicated in the next generation. One group was Thomas son of Ralph son of Wimund where Thomas St. John married the daughter of William Fossard son of Nigel Fossard and the other were the descendants of this Ralph [St. John] in the next generation. This Wimund living in 1136 x 1150 was likely Wimund son of Thomas *son Ralph son of Wimund* also known as Wimund de Lockington. This Wimund married a daughter of William Percy and Emma de Port. Emma de Port being the granddaughter of Ralph [St. John] son of Wimund.

Herbert fitz Wimund was named in the pipe roll of 1130, rendering account for a hunter which he owed to the king for a grant of two carucates and two bovates and a house in York. Herbert fitz Wimund of Etton, with the consent of his brother Ralph, gave two carucates in Flaxton, which he held of Bertram son of Aschetil of Bulmer. Peter fitz Wimund was witness to Bertram's deed for Rievaulx.

<sup>26</sup> Carpenter, David X. *Wimund: Fossard tenant in Yorkshire*. Charters of William II and Henry I Project. H1-Wimund-2014-1.

## Alleged St. John Family Structure



Carpenter states the “association between two of Wimund’s sons and the sheriff (Bertram of Bulmer), and the tenure in the large demesne manor of Driffield apparent in this lost act, perhaps allow us to infer that he was a reeve or some other official of the sheriff of Yorkshire. He [Wimund] would have been in frequent contact with the king’s officers in Yorkshire, if he was already steward of Fossard’s fee when it was taken into the king’s hands.”

In 1166 it was documented, Ralph fitz Wimund held one knight’s fee of William Fossard in the time of King Henry. An 1154 charter of King Stephen for the Abbey of Meaux confirms gifts ‘of William Fossard and of Ralph fitz Wimund his man’. It is not clear if this is referring to Ralph son of Wimund Lockington or Ralph (father of Thomas) son of Wimund. William Fossard, the son of Nigel Fossard would be in the time of Henry I (1100-1130). But it could be about William Fossard, son of Robert Fossard, son of Nigel Fossard which could then be after 1130.

### Wimund and Ralph son of Wimund at St. Jean-le-Thomas

The next logical step was to check Mont Saint-Michel and its relevant charters for a Wimund and or Ralph son of Wimund to see if they are in proximity there also.

### Wimund d’Avranches, Vicomes

In 1015, a ‘*Guimudi*’ witnessed a Charter of Gunnor (relict of Duke Richard)<sup>27</sup>.

In 1026, ‘*Guimundus vicecomes*’ witnessed a Charter of Richard II duke and prince of the Normans at Mont-St. Michel. Again, in 1026-1028 at Mont-St. Michel a charter is witnessed by Wimund... “...*Nigelli vicecomitis, Tursteni vicecomitis...Willelmi Arcacensis comitis, Godefridi vicecomitis, Rodgerii filii Rodulfi, Wimundi...*” witnessed the charter dated to 1040 under which Guillaume Comte de Talou donated property to Jumièges<sup>28</sup>. Also appearing with Wimund are Nigel [Fossard?], Thurstan [le Goz?] and William d’Avranches.

<sup>27</sup> Delisle, Léopold. *Histoire du château et des sires de Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte suivie de ...*pg. 3-4

<sup>28</sup> Delisle (1867), *Pièces justificatives*, 16, p. 17.

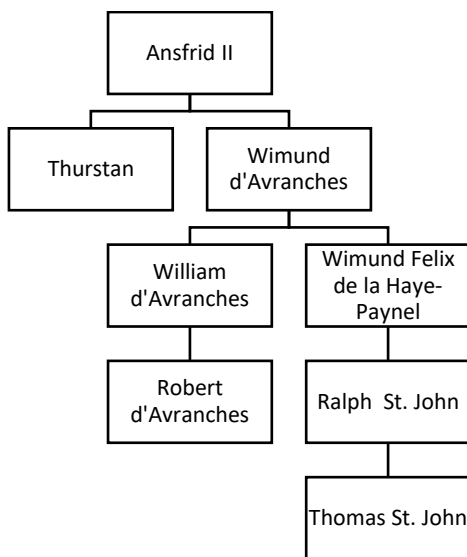


William d'Avranches, also known as William son of Wimund (abt. 1028-1087) is said to have been 'of Bréhal'. He and his son Robert were benefactors of Mont-St.-Michel (Bibl. Mun. Avranches ms 210, fol. 83r-v). William was the son of Wimund d'Avranches, Vicomte. Orderic Vitalis recorded the death of "Guillelmus de Abrincis filius Witmundi" among events during 1087<sup>29</sup>. Witmund, "Vuitmundus vicecomes", is identified as the brother of Toustain surnommé Goz, fils d'Ansroi le Danois by Recherches sur la Domesday.

According to Orderic Vitalis, Wimund was the seigneur de la Haya-Paynel.

Wimund d'Avranches, was the vicomes of Pagus Constantiensis that resided at Moulin's Castle in the Heimes. He probably died before 1040. His son Wimund Felix de la Haye-Paynel of Moulins castle in Heimes and Castel Pagano in Italy was living in 1040 and by 1053 had betrayed Duke William (The Conqueror) causing Moulins castle to be given to Wimund Felix's daughter Albereda and her husband William de Falaise, the son of Walter and nephew of Herleva (Duke William's mother).

### Alleged Wimund d'Avranches family structure



### Wimund Felix son of Wimund d'Avranches

'Guimond de Moulins', 'Guimund Felix de Moulins', 'Wimund', 'Guimundus de Castello Pagano' was one of the country's barons, with holdings in Manche and Calvados, Normandy, France, and in Italy. Between 1040 X 1066, Wimund de Moulins and his wife Emma gave a place called Planches, which became a cell of Saint-Pere. Wimund reports the consent of "my lord Duke William, from whose benefice I am known to hold [it]." The charter is signed by eight sons of Wimund and Emma. Before 1053, Wimund and his wife Emma and their children donated property in Rislo and in Moira, Italy with a tenth of Wimund's Molines Castle to Chartres Saint-Père. A charter written before 1066 and perhaps no earlier than 1063 begins,

*"I William [de Falaise], a knight, son of Walter, who hold the castle of Moulins, wish all faithful Christians to know ... that the monks of the convent of Saint-Pere de Chartres approached me [and asked] that I concede to them ... certain things which they had held in the time of my ancestor Wimund and which they lost through a certain disturbance in Normandy."*

This charter twice refers to Duke William as his lord and is signed by his wife Alberada and their sons William and Robert. A third charter, which is later than the first and earlier than 1069, says the monk in charge of the cell at Planches had bought some land there from a priest named Fulbert [de Falaise] with the consent of Fulbert's lords William de Fay and Wimund [I] who were brothers, and the consent of "Wimund [II], called Felix, to whom the castle of Moulins itself then belonged, from whose benefice the aforesaid two brothers held their land."

<sup>29</sup> Charles Cawley, "Normandy, Avranches, Bayeux, Cotentin: C. Vicomtes d'Avranches", *Medieval Lands: A prosopography of medieval European noble and royal families*, (v4.0 Updated 19 April 2017), *Foundation for Medieval Genealogy*, ([http://fmg.ac/Projects/MedLands/normabc.htm#\\_Toc479099598](http://fmg.ac/Projects/MedLands/normabc.htm#_Toc479099598) accessed 21 September 2017).

The ‘certain disturbance in Normandy’ refers to when Wimond commanded the fortress of Moulins and surrendered it to the King in betrayal against Duke William. The fortress thus gained by Henry lay on the other side of the Seine, in the **County of Hiesmes** and Diocese of Seez. This post was an important one because it was on the very frontier of the debateable land of the House of Belesme. “*In ipsa mora obsidionali Normannorum aliquanti potentiores ab Duce ad Regem defecerunt, quos jam antea conspirationis rebellantium occultique fuisse adjustors opinabile erat. Malevolentiam, qua olim contra infantem fuerant inflata nondum evomuere totam. Eorum eo consortio Gimundus praesidens munitiori quam Molendinas appellant in manus Regis eam dedit.*”<sup>30</sup>”

The foundation charter of the priory of Planches names eight sons of Wimund Felix: Ralph, Robert, Antony, Wimund, Hugh, Alan, William, and Toresguad. An alternate version of the same charter lists seven, omitting Robert. In a charter dated 1092, “Ralph, name of Molisio, by the grace of God count of the county of Boiano” made a gift to Monte Cassino for the souls, among others, of his parents, Wimund and Emma, and his brothers Robert, Hugh, Antony, Wimund, Alan, and Turstin. Of the sons of Wimund Felix, in the charter of Planches, only William and Toresguad are not mentioned in the Monte Cassino charter. Of the brothers of Ralph in the charter for Monte Cassino, only Turstin is not in the charter for Planches. In any case, Wimund Felix evidently had at least eight sons and one daughter.

In 1052-3, Wimund Felix, as previously stated, participated in a rebellion against Duke William. Some hypothesize this explains why Moulins Castle passed to his daughter Alberada and her husband, William de Falaise. They also allege Wimund and his children lost their inheritances and fled to Italy and the castle likely escheated to Duke William, who then granted it to his cousin William de Falaise. It seems more likely that Duke William forgave the betrayal, as he did many others, and acquired Wimund’s allegiance, because he held a governor position at Paynel Castle in Italy. During the Battle of Hastings, Wimund served under Ivo Tallesbois for Duke William and was awarded lands in England for this service. The third charter from Saint-Pere also implies Wimund’s family did not lose Moulins because it portrays Alberada as holding court as lady of the castle by virtue of being her father’s daughter, not her husband’s wife.

The family is found in Italy because the Normans invaded Italy in an ongoing fashion from about 999 to 1139. The Normans arrived in Southern Italy in 1017, in a pilgrimage to the sanctuary of St. Michael Archangel in Monte Sant’Angelo sul Gargano (Apulia). These warriors had been used to the threat posed by the Saracens, who, from their bases in Sicily, raided South Italy without much resistance from the Lombard and Byzantine rulers of the affected lands. The Battle of Civitate was fought on 18 Jun 1053 in southern Italy between the Normans and a Swabian-Italian-Lombard army organized by Pope Leo IX. The Norman victory over the allied papal army marked the climax of a conflict between the Norman mercenaries who came to southern Italy in the eleventh century. By 1059, the Normans would create an alliance with the papacy.

Wimund Felix is probably the same man as the Wimund who was already holding land in San Severino, Italy in 1053. During the 1050s and 1060s, there were two centres of Norman power in southern Italy; one at Melfi (under the Hautevilles) and another at Aversa (under the Drengots). Wimund Felix’s children and grandchildren married into the Hautevilles family. The Norman Tancred de Hautevilles conquered Bojano. Bojano became a fief of Ralph de Moulins, Wimund’s son, and a companion to Robert Guiscard de Hauteville.



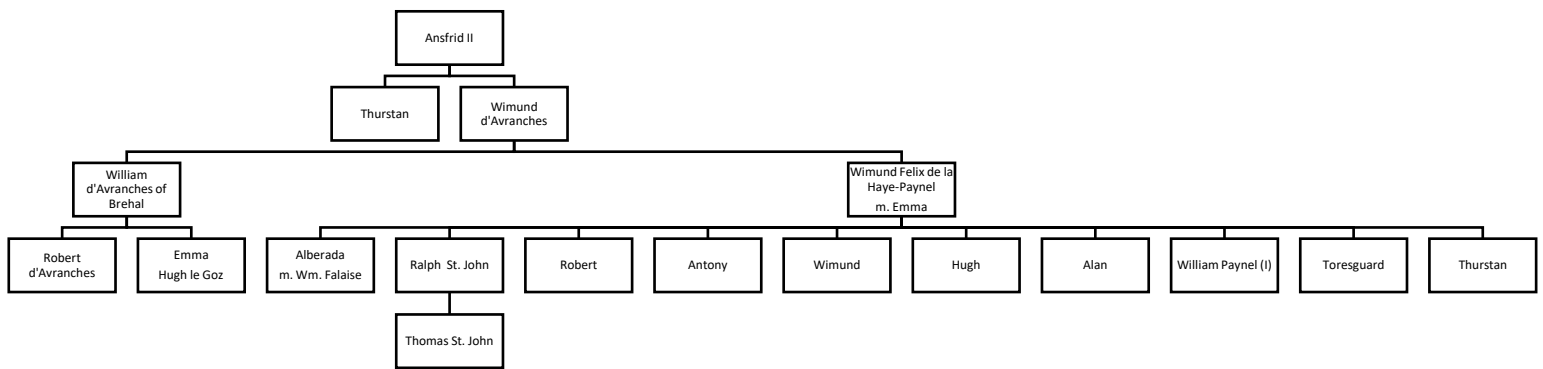
Ruins of Castel Pagano<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Freeman, Edward Augustus 1823-1892. The History of the Norman conquest of England, its causes and its results. University of Toronto. p. 137.

<sup>31</sup> "File:Castel Pagano.jpg." Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository. 4 Oct 2015, 19:48 UTC. 22 Jun 2020, 06:36 <[https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Castel\\_Pagano.jpg&oldid=174415118](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Castel_Pagano.jpg&oldid=174415118)>.

In about 1053, an Italian charter that includes ‘Castri Pagani<sup>32</sup>’ is witnessed: †*Ego Guimundus de Castello Pagano castellano constitutes testis sum*<sup>33</sup> which translates to: “I, Guimundus, Governor of Payne[l] Castle was appointed witness”. It is also witnessed, †*Ego Henricus Gratia*<sup>34</sup> *Dei Comes montis sancti Michaelis Arcangeli ita egi*. Castle Pagano is thought to have been built by the Normans in the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century but the Wikipedia article that states this makes no reference to its Governor, Guimundus. It is possible that Wimund Felix had the castle built. But it is not clear if the Paynel family gave their name to the castle or if they took their by-name from the castle. Regardless, it was flourishing in the eleventh century under the rule of the Norman count Enrico di Monte Sant’Angelo [d. 21 Dec. 1102]. It is not clear why Wimund was no longer there except that he and his son Ralph returned to Normandy and eventually acquired lands in England.

In England, Wimund was a Domesday tenant following the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and by 1086 held 18 lands in Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire, Essex, Berkshire, and Hertfordshire.<sup>35</sup> For Oxfordshire, Wimund appears under a listing for his son in Alkerton, where he was identified only as Ralph, “*Wimund, 3 [hides]... in <sup>1</sup>Showell [Wootton] of the fief of [Odo] the Bishop of Bayeux*”<sup>36</sup>. Showell was originally part of Wootton Hundred that contains known St. John properties Steeple Barton and Glympton but Showell later became part of Chadlington Hundred. “*Ernulf de Hesdin holds of the king 5 hides in <sup>2</sup>Black Bourton [in Bampton, Oxfordshire], and Wimund [holds] of him. [There is] land for 6 ploughs. Now in demesne [are] 3 ploughs, and 2 slaves; and 9 villans with 3 bordars have 3 ploughs. There is a mill [rendering] 4s, and 20 acres of meadow, [and] pasture 4 furlongs long and as many broad. It was and is worth 4l. Thorgot held it freely*”<sup>37</sup>. For Lincolnshire, Wimund appears under the listings for <sup>3</sup>Holton-le-Clay, Bradley; <sup>4</sup>Old Clee, Bradley; <sup>5</sup>Swallow, Bradley; <sup>6</sup>Thrunscoc, Bradley; <sup>7</sup>Boothby, Candleshoe; <sup>8</sup>Welton-le-Marsh, Candleshoe; <sup>9</sup>Grainsby, Haverstoe; <sup>10</sup>Wold Newton, Haverstoe; <sup>11</sup>North Ormsby, Ludborough; <sup>12</sup>Wyham, Ludborough; and <sup>13</sup>West Rasen, Walshcroft. In <sup>13</sup>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*”<sup>38</sup>. 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, who then passed the whole of it to his son William St. John-Paynel, who then passed it to his son Hugh Paynel of West Rasen d. c. 1179. For Essex, Wimund appears under the listings for <sup>14</sup>Norton Mandaville, Ongar. In Berkshire, Wimund appears under the listings for <sup>15</sup>Shellingford, Gainfield and <sup>16</sup>Watchfield, Shrivenham. And for Hertfordshire, Wimund appears under the listings for <sup>17</sup>Wallington, Odsey and <sup>18</sup>Wormley, Ludborough.



<sup>32</sup> Castle Pain[el]

<sup>33</sup> Codice diplomatico del regno di Carlo I. e II. d’Angio... Stamperia delia R. Universita, 1863. Naples (Kingdom). p. XVIII.

<sup>34</sup> Wimund’s son Ralph married Alberada Dei gratia/de Guardia. In March 1092, “*Rodulfus cognomina de Molisio Dei gratia comes patriae Bovianesis*” ... While *Dei gratia* could be a phonetic spelling of *de Guardia*, dei gratia is usually attached to royalty to mean by the grace of God.

<sup>35</sup> <https://opendomesday.org/name/wimund/>

<sup>36</sup> Great Domesday Book. National Archive of Kew reference E 31/2/1/5972. 1086. folio 156v.

<sup>37</sup> Great Domesday Book. National Archive of Kew reference E 31/2/1/6145. 1086. Folio 160r.

<sup>38</sup> Great Domesday Book. National Archive of Kew reference E 31/2/2/7009. 1086. folio 342v.

## Ralph son of Wimund Felix

By 1053, Ralph son of Wimund Felix participated in the Battle of Civitate and by then was already count of Boiano in Italy. On Christmas Day of 1054, William Pichenoht donated property to Mont Saint-Michel, witnessed by "*Radulfi de Sancto Johanne*". The charter for the abbey was laid on the altar of Rouen Cathedral and signed in the presence of Duke William (the Conqueror). Ralph also witnessed a grant in 1066 at Bonneville indicating he was with close association to Duke William at the time 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. Ralph de Saint-Jean was also known as Seigneur [the lord of the manor] de Saint-Jean. 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. Ralph held half of St. Jean-le-Thomas for twenty sous<sup>39</sup> each year at the Montmartin fair which constituted the prebende<sup>40</sup> of Lambert the goldsmith<sup>41</sup>. The other half was held by Mont Saint-Michel.

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*<sup>42</sup>. In 1086, Ralph de Saint John witnessed a charter by Robert FitzHamon at Mont Saint-Michel<sup>43</sup>. Following the death of Duke William in 1087, Ralph removed four saltworks and the land of a certain Serion from the abbey of Mont Saint-Michel<sup>44</sup>.

## Marriage One

Ralph St. John-Paynel married first, Alferada di Guardia, daughter of Rofrit Conte di Guardia. She died before 1088 when Ralph was already married to his second wife Emma de Lacy. Alferada's parentage and marriage are confirmed by the Gesta Roberti Wiscardi which names, "*Molinensisque Rodulfi Rofredus socer – huius castrum Gardia*" when recording the participation of the last named in the battle of Civitate (dated to 17 Jun 1053) in support of Pope Leon IX<sup>45</sup>.

- I. ALTRUDA DI MOLISE, Malaterra names "miles...Ingelmarus" and records his marriage to "uxorem nepotis sui Serlonis...filia Rodulfi Bojanensis comitis"<sup>46</sup>. m firstly SERLON, son of SERLON & his wife --- (-killed in battle near Nicosia, Sicily summer 1072). m secondly INGELMAR, son of ---.
- II. SICHELGAITA DI MOLISE, "Goffridus...comes" donated land of S. Nicola to the abbot of Santa Maria di Nardò by charter dated May 1092, signed by "Sikelgaita comitisse, Roberti Cupersanensis...Rogerii vice comitis"<sup>47</sup>. "Sikelgaita filia Rao de Mulisi" is named with "son époux Geoffroy de Conversano" in a charter dated Oct 1093. "Gofridus...comes Cupersani...et uxor mea Sikelgaita et filius meus Robbertus atque Alexander" donated property to Conversano S. Benedetto by charter dated 1098. "Goffridus...[co]me[s] dominator civitatis Neritoni...cum Sechelgayta comitissa uxore mea et cum filiis nostris [R]oberto et [A]lexandri[o]" donated the church of Santa Anastasia di Matino, near Gallipoli to the monastery of Santa Maria di Nardò by charter dated Jan 1099. "Goffridus...comes, Brundusine civitatis dominator...et mea uxor domina Sichelgaita" donated the churches of the parishes of Santa Maria antica and San Andrea dell'isola, Brindisi to the church of San Leucio, Brindisi by charter dated Aug 1100. "Goffridus...comes dominator civitatis Neritoni...cum

<sup>39</sup> A French coin of little value.

<sup>40</sup> A portion of the revenues of a cathedral or collegiate church formerly granted to a canon or member of the chapter as a stipend.

<sup>41</sup> 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 °.

<sup>42</sup> Cartulary of Mont St.-Michel, folios 83v and 84. (Bibliothèque d'Avranches, Manuscript 210)

<sup>43</sup> Genestal, Robert. Role of credit établissements comme des monasteres: etude en Normandie du ... pg 219-220. Cartulary of Mont St.-Michel, folio 79v.

<sup>44</sup> Radulfus by Sancto Johanne tollit Sancto Michaeli. IIIOT. salinaa and terram Serlonis. Cartulary of Mont Saint-Michel, ..., fol. 110 r °.

<sup>45</sup> Gesta Roberti Wiscardi II, MGH SS IX, p. 257.

<sup>46</sup> Malaterra, III.31, p. 76.

<sup>47</sup> Guerrieri, G. 'I conti normanni di Bardò e di Brindisi (1092-1130)', Archivio storico per le province Napoletane, Anno XXVI, Fascicolo II (Naples, 1901), Documenti, I, p. 295.

Sechelgayta comitissa uxore mea et cum filiis nostris domino Roberto et Alexandro" donated the church of SS Trinità, Nardò and other churches to the monastery of Santa Maria by charter dated Feb 1104, signed by "Robertus infans, Alexander, Ugo vice come...". "Sichelgaita comitissa, Goffredi comitis...quondam uxor...meique filii domini Tanchedi...comes" donated "il casale di Tuterano...il casale di Valerano, quello di Fenestrato" to the monastery of Santa Maria veterana di Brindisi by charter dated Apr 1107, signed by "Tanchredus comes---Constantia, Raimundi filius magni Raimundi...Sendi nepotis comitisse...". "Rogerius...Sicilie et Italie rex...Rogerii primi comitis heres et filius" confirmed past donations by "...comitis quoque Goffridi Cupersani et uxoris eius Sikelgaite comitisse" by charter dated 28 Sep 1133. m GODEFROI Conte di Conversano, son of --- di Conversano & his wife --- de Hauteville (- Sep 1101).

- III. HUGUES DE MOLISE, <sup>I105553842</sup> Ralph, Wimund II, Wimund I, Ansfriid II "Rodulfus cognomina de Molisio...comes patriæ Bovianensis" donated the church of Santa Croce d'Isernia to Monte Cassino, for the souls of "Ugonis filii mei et Rogerii et Roberti nepotis mei filii Roberti filii mei...patris mei Guimundi et matris meæ Emma et filiorum meorum Robberti et Rodulfi et Wilielmi nec non et Alferadæ uxoris meæ iam defunctæ et filiarum meorum Adelicza et Beatricis", by charter dated Mar 1092<sup>48</sup>. Conte di Molise. "Ugo comes qui dicor de Mulisi filius quondam Rodulfi comitis" donated the monastery of San Benedetto di Dalfani to San Angelo ad Formas by charter dated Feb 1097, signed by "Grimoaldi comes palatii..."<sup>49</sup>. The Chronica Mon. Casinensis names "Ugo comitis de Molisio, filius comitis Raulis" when recording his donation of "castellum Vitecosum" in Sep 1105<sup>50</sup>. The Annales Casenses record that in 1098 "Ugo de Molisi" captured "Pandulfum comitem" and held him in chains<sup>51</sup>. m ---. The name of Ugo's wife is not known. Ugo & his wife had [three] children:
- IV. ROBERT DE MOLISE, <sup>I105554732</sup> Ralph, Wimund II, Wimund I, Ansfriid II "Rodulfus cognomina de Molisio...comes patriæ Bovianensis" donated the church of Santa Croce d'Isernia to Monte Cassino, for the souls of "Ugonis filii mei et Rogerii et Roberti nepotis mei filii Roberti filii mei...patris mei Guimundi et matris meæ Emma et filiorum meorum Robberti et Rodulfi et Wilielmi nec non et Alferadæ uxoris meæ iam defunctæ et filiarum meorum Adelicza et Beatricis", by charter dated Mar 1092<sup>52</sup>. m ---. The name of Robert's wife is not known. Robert & his wife had two children:
- V. RALPH PAYNEL, II, OF HOOTON, IRNHAM, AND EAST QUANTOCKSHEAD, was born about 1060. He married Mathilda de Surdeval, the daughter of Richard de Surdeval, Domesday tenant of Yorkshire.
- VI. WILLIAM PAYNEL, II, "Rodulfus cognomina de Molisio...comes patriæ Bovianensis" donated the church of Santa Croce d'Isernia to Monte Cassino, for the souls of "Ugonis filii mei et Rogerii et Roberti nepotis mei filii Roberti filii mei...patris mei Guimundi et matris meæ Emma et filiorum meorum Robberti et Rodulfi et Wilielmi nec non et Alferadæ uxoris meæ iam defunctæ et filiarum meorum Adelicza et Beatricis", by charter dated Mar 1092<sup>53</sup>. Matthew of Paris quotes a charter dated 1116 of King Henry I which records his grant of Biscot, Bedfordshire to the abbey of St Albans, witnessed by Adam de Port Thomas St. John, William his brother, Hugh de Gornaio, "...Adam de Port, Thomas de Sancto Johanne, Willelmus frater eius, Hugo de Gornaio" (MP Vol. VI, 22, p. 36.)
- VII. ADELIZA DI MOLISE, "Rodulfus cognomina de Molisio...comes patriæ Bovianensis" donated the church of Santa Croce d'Isernia to Monte Cassino, for the souls of "Ugonis filii mei et Rogerii et Roberti nepotis mei filii Roberti filii mei...patris mei Guimundi et matris meæ Emma et filiorum meorum Robberti et Rodulfi et Wilielmi nec non et Alferadæ uxoris meæ iam defunctæ et filiarum meorum Adelicza et Beatricis", by charter dated Mar 1092<sup>54</sup>.
- VIII. BEATRICE DI MOLISE, "Rodulfus cognomina de Molisio...comes patriæ Bovianensis" donated the church of Santa Croce d'Isernia to Monte Cassino, for the souls of "Ugonis filii mei et Rogerii et Roberti nepotis mei filii Roberti filii mei...patris mei Guimundi et matris

<sup>48</sup> Stasser (2008), p. 95, quoting Gattola (1734), p. 207.

<sup>49</sup> Sancti Angeli ad Formas, XVII, p. 37.

<sup>50</sup> Leonis Marsicani, Chronica Monasterii Casinensis IV.25, MGH SS VII, p. 773.

<sup>51</sup> Annales Casenses 1098, MGH SS XIX, p. 308.

<sup>52</sup> Stasser (2008), p. 95, quoting Gattola, E. (1734) Ad historiam abbatiae Casinensis accessiones (Venice), p. 207.

<sup>53</sup> Stasser (2008), p. 95, quoting Gattola (1734), p. 207.

<sup>54</sup> Stasser (2008), p. 95, quoting Gattola (1734), p. 207.

meæ Emma et filiorum meorum Robberti et Rodulfi et Wilielmi nec non et Alferadæ uxoris meæ iam defunctæ et filiarum mearum Adelicza et Beatricis", by charter dated Mar 1092<sup>55</sup>.

## Marriage Two

It has been long speculated that Ralph Paynel married the sister or daughter of Gilbert d'Lacy because of how the East Riding, Yorkshire property passed down through the Paynels. The St. John property of Stantone was also held by Gilbert d'Lacy and passed down through the St. Johns. Now, that we know Ralph Paynel was a coalesce of Ralph St. John and his son Ralph Paynel Jr. it seems obvious that Ralph St. John-Paynel must have married either the sister or the daughter of Gilbert d'Lacy. In researching the family of Gilbert d'Lacy it became clear that if Ralph's wife was Gilbert's sister, then her name was Emma<sup>56</sup>, but if Ralph married Gilbert's daughter then her name was Mathilda<sup>57</sup>. In a 1088 Charter, Ralph St. John-Paynel de Moulins identified his second wife as Emma, "*Rodulfus comes...cognomina de Molinis...cum conjugē mea...Emma*" donated property by charter dated 1088<sup>58</sup>.

IX. [SYBILLIA] ST. JOHN-PAYNEL, [Sybillia] was born about 1074 and married, about 1088, Adam de Port, the son of Hubert de Port. Adam was a Domesday Tenant and held 40 properties in Oxfordshire, Kent, Hertfordshire, Essex and Surrey<sup>59</sup>. In 1111, Adam witnessed a charter with his brother-in-law, Thomas St. John<sup>60</sup>. Matthew of Paris quotes a charter dated 1116 of King Henry I which records his grant of Biscot, Bedfordshire to the abbey of St Albans, witnessed by "...Adam de Port, Thomas de Sancto Johanne, Willelmus frater eius, Hugo de Gornaio"<sup>61</sup>. Before 1121, Adam was granted the manor of Kington in Herefordshire by King Henry I of England. Kington had previously been in the royal demense. This grant is considered by I. J. Sanders to have created Adam the baron of Kington<sup>62</sup>. Adam served King Henry in his household as a steward<sup>63</sup>. He was a witness on four royal documents in 1115 and four more in 1121<sup>64</sup>. In about 1121, Thomas St. John names his nephew, Ralph de Port. Adam held 22 knight's fees in Hereford before his death<sup>65</sup>. Adam may have been the Sheriff of Herefordshire in 1130<sup>66</sup>, and perhaps at other times also, as he may be the person listed as the sheriff in some documents<sup>67</sup>. Adam founded Andwell Priory in Hampshire as a dependent priory of Tiron Abbey. He also gave gifts of land to Tiron itself and Les Deux Jumeaux, another dependency of Tiron<sup>68</sup>. Adam died between 1130 and 1133<sup>69</sup>.

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<sup>55</sup> Stasser (2008), p. 95, quoting Gattola (1734), p. 207.

<sup>56</sup> If she is the sister to Gilbert d'Lacy her name is Emma d'Lacy because a manuscript which narrates the descendants of the founders of Lanthony Abbey records that "Hugo de Lacy primus" had "duabus sororibus...Ermelinæ...et Emmæ" who were his heiresses, adding that Emma married "----". Source: Dugdale Monasticon VI, Lanthony Abbey, Gloucestershire, II, Fundatorum progenies, p. 135 Emma and Gilbert were then the children of Hugh d'Lacy and Emma de Blois.

<sup>57</sup> If she is the daughter of Gilbert d'Lacy her name is Mathilda d'Lacy because "Henricum de Laceio" founded Kirkstall Abbey, for the souls of "Ilberti avi mei et Hawis uxoris suæ...et Matildis amitæ", by undated charter. Translation: "Henry de Lacy founded Kirkstall Abbey, for the souls of his Grandparents Ilbert and Hawise and for aunt Matilda". Assuming that "amita" can be interpreted in its strict sense of paternal aunt, Matilda was then the daughter of Ilbert de Lacy and Hawise le Goz, daughter of Hugh le Goz, Earl of Chester. Kirkstall Abbey was founded in c. 1152. Source: Dugdale Monasticon V, Kirkstall Abbey, Yorkshire III, p. 532

<sup>58</sup> Stasser (2008), p. 95, quoting Tropeano, P. M. (1977) Codice diplomatico Verginiano (Montevergine), Tome I, 83, p. 331

<sup>59</sup> <https://opendomesday.org/name/adam-son-of-hubert/>

<sup>60</sup> <http://deeds.Library.utoronto.org/charters/03781000>

<sup>61</sup> Matthew Paris. vol. vi, 22, p. 36.

<sup>62</sup> Sanders, I. J. (1960). English Baronies: A Study of Their Origin and Descent 1086–1327. Oxford, UK: Clarendon Press. p. 57.

<sup>63</sup> Hollister, C. Warren (2001). Frost, Amanda Clark (ed.). Henry I. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. p. 361.

<sup>64</sup> Newman, Charlotte A. (1988). The Anglo-Norman Nobility in the Reign of Henry I: The Second Generation. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. pp. 185-186.

<sup>65</sup> Newman, Charlotte A. (1988). The Anglo-Norman Nobility in the Reign of Henry I: The Second Generation. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. p. 175.

<sup>66</sup> Cownie, Emma (2004). "Port, Adam de (fl. 1161–1174)". Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. Oxford University Press.

<sup>67</sup> Green, Judith A. (1990). English Sheriffs to 1154. Public Record Office Handbooks Number 24. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. p. 45.

<sup>68</sup> Cownie, Emma (2004). "Port, Adam de (fl. 1161–1174)". Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. Oxford University Press.

<sup>69</sup> Keats-Rohan, K. S. B. (1999). Domesday Descendants: A Prosopography of Persons Occurring in English Documents, 1066–1166: Pipe Rolls to Cartae Baronum. Ipswich, UK: Boydell Press. p. 645.

1. EMMA DE PORT, was born about 1088 and married William Percy, 1st Baron of Topcliff, Yorkshire; the son of Geoffrey de Percy III and Marie de Forrest. Their children were: Alan, Walter, William Percy 2<sup>nd</sup> Abbot of Whitby, Richard, Roaude and Ascelina m. Wimumd de Lockington.
  2. HUGH DE PORT, OF KETTON, was born about 1089 and he was a Domesday Tenant of 1086.
  3. RALPH DE PORT, was born about 1090. He accepted twelve pounds of mansois for land he held for Ralph Mauregard's son.
  4. ADELAIDE DE PORT, was born about 1091.
  5. ROGER DE PORT, was born about 1092 and married Sybil d'Aubigny.
  6. ROBERT DE PORT, was born about 1093.
- X. FULK PAGANEL, Fulk, 'Foulques Paganel,' founded the Abbey of Newport called Newport-Paganel<sup>70</sup>. He was probably born about 1075. The 1130 Pipe Roll records "*Fulcoius Paenell*" paying half a fine relating to his suit against "*Rogerum Parlarium*" in Staffordshire<sup>71</sup>. "*Gervasius Paganellus*" donated property to Tykford Priory, with the consent of "*uxoris meæ Isabellæ comitissæ de Norhamton*", by charter dated 1187 which names "*Fulcodius Paganellus avus meus and Radulfus Paganellus pater meus*"<sup>72</sup>. *Domesday Descendants* states that Fulk Paynell "*acquired the fief of William fitz Ansculf de Picquigny lord of Dudley, Worcestershire, probably by marriage to William's heiress*"<sup>73</sup>. Ellis is more definite, naming "*Beatrix, d. and heiress of Will. fitz Ansculph, of Dudley*" as the wife of Fulk Paynell, without citing the primary sources on which he bases his supposition<sup>74</sup>. Grazebrook comments that "*it has...been suggested, and I think with great probability*" that Fulk Paynell acquired the lordship of Dudley "*by marriage with Fitz Ansculph's heiress*"<sup>75</sup>. He married Beatrix de Picquigny of Dudley Castle and their children were:
- XI. ALICE ST. JOHN, was born about 1077 at St. Jean-le-Thomas, Avranches, Manche, Normandy, France. She married Richard de Mont and had a son, Gilbert de Mont, and his younger brother Philip de Mont. *Domesday Descendants* names "*Richard de Monte (Mont-Saint-Michel) and Alice, sister of John of St John*" as the parents of Gilbert de Monte.<sup>76</sup> The *Rotuli de Dominabus* records that "*heres Gilberti de Monte...xv annorum*" was "*nepos [nephew, or descendant of] Thome de Sancto Johanne et Johannis de Sancto Johanne et Hugonis de Plugenet et Willelmi Fossard*".<sup>77</sup> A William Fossard was living circa 1150 and was documented in charter 502: Confirmation of foundation of Watton Priory, co. York.<sup>78</sup>
- XII. THOMAS ST. JOHN, died after 1121 but no later than 1140; probably in 1130. He took part in the operations against Tinchebrai in 1106. "...Th. de Sancto Johanne..." witnessed the charter dated 1108 under which Henry I King of England confirmed the foundation of Holy Trinity, London. The Chronicle of Abingdon records that King Henry I appointed "Thoma de Sancto Johanne ac Ricardo de Monte" as Sheriffs of Oxfordshire, "Oxenefordscire vicecomitibus," at Oxford in 1111. He also, in 1112, gave some land to Gloucester abbey: "*Thomas de St. John gave to the Monks of St. Peters in Gloucester, his Lands called Rugges, lying in Standisch*".<sup>79</sup> At Lent 1116, "*Notification to (Robert Bloet) bishop of Lincoln [1093-1123], Thomas de St. John, and the lieges [vassal] of Oxfordshire, of the confirmation to the church of Abingdon of land at Fencott, which Adelina [Grandmesnil] de Ivry [wife of Roger [Radulfum] de Ivry died after May 1110-1; Chron. Of Abingdon, ii. 72-3] has given. It is attested by Nigel de Oilli, Thomas de St. John, Hugh de Envremou, Geoffrey Fitz-Pain, Geoffrey de Magneville, Roger de Oillei, Robert de Dunstanvill and Ralph de Angervill; at Woodstock, in Lent.*" From about 1117 to 1121, Thomas, Lord of Saint-Jean, rebuilt or upgraded the original castle at St. John situated at the edge of the cliff and had trouble with the priest who accused

<sup>70</sup> Ellis names "William Paynel of Moûtiers-Hubert and Fulk Paynel of Dudley" as the sons of William Paynell Seigneur de Moûtiers-Hubert, without citing the primary sources on which he bases his supposition. *Domesday Descendants* does not specify his parentage.

<sup>71</sup> Pipe Roll 31 Hen I (1129/30), Staffordshire, p. 73

<sup>72</sup> Dugdale Monasticon V, Tykford Priory, Buckinghamshire, II, p. 203.

<sup>73</sup> *Domesday Descendants*, p. 1055, citing Sanders, I. J. (1960) *English Baronies: A Study of their Origins and Descent 1086-1327* (Oxford), p. 113.

<sup>74</sup> Ellis 'Landholders of Gloucestershire', p. 150.

<sup>75</sup> Grazebrook 'The Barons of Dudley' (1888), p. 8

<sup>76</sup> *Domesday Descendants*, p. 594, citing Cartulary of Evesham, p. 174.

<sup>77</sup> *Rotuli Dominabus*, Rotuli III, Norhamtonsire, Hundredo de Suttone, p. 15.

<sup>78</sup> *Catalogue of the Stowe Manuscripts in the British Museum: Index*. 1896, pg. 142

<sup>79</sup> <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A36794.0001.001/1:6.181?rgn=div2;view=fulltext>

him of destroying St. John's forests. Thomas rebelled against the abbot of Mont, destroyed his fortress, and gave the village its new name; originally called "Saint John at the end of the sea" it then became *Saint-Jean-le-Thomas*. By 1130 he was deceased.

- XIII. JOHN ST. JOHN, He was born about 1085 at St. Jean-le-Thomas, Avranches, Manche, Normandy, France and died about 1160 at Oxford, England, UK. In 1118, John and Roger St. John surrendered La Motte-Gautier de Clinchamp to the Angevins. In 1140, his brother, Thomas, was deceased; John secured Thomas' lands in England by payment of the large sum of 160 marcs: "[Thomas was] succeeded [by] John de S. John, who in 5 Steph. [1140] Gave 160 Marks of Silver for Livery of the Lands which his Brother Thomas had in England. Which John was a witness to that Grant of the Church of Combe, made by Maud the Empress to the Monks of Egnesham, in Com. Oxon. And likewise bestowed on those Monks the Church of Stanton". He is the progenitor for the St. John lineage of Stanton-St. John, Lageham, Instow, England and Uchel-olau, Glamorgan, Wales. Orderic Vitalis records that "*Rogierius de Sancto Johanne et Johannes frater eius*" defended the castle of La Motte-Gautier against Foulques V Comte d'Anjou for Henry I King of England in 1118.<sup>80</sup> A charter dated to [before] 1121 records that "*Thomas de Sancto Johanne*" had constructed his castle at Saint-Jean with wood taken from land of the abbey of Saint-Michel and records his donation in settlement of their claim, signed by "*Thoma, Johanne fratre eius et Rogerio...*".<sup>81</sup> The *Historia Foundationis* of Kingswood priory in Wiltshire records that King Stephen granted "*illi de Kingswode Haseldene...terras Reginaldo de sancto Walerico*" to "*Johanne de sancto Johanne*", in the early years of his reign.<sup>82</sup>
- XIV. ROGER ST. JOHN, He was born about 1090 at St. Jean-le-Thomas, Avranches, Manche, Normandy, France and died after 1162 in England. In 1115, he witnessed a charter of Rainald d'Orival with Robert de Haia, Hugone de Aurevalle and others. 1118, John and Roger St. John surrendered La Motte-Gautier de Clinchamp to the Angevins. He married Cecily de Haia of Halnaker. Upon the marriage of Robert de Haia's daughter Cecily, to Roger St. John the number of monks living at Boxgrove Priory was increased from the original three to six, and by 1187 there were a total of fifteen. He is the maternal-progenitor for the de Port-St. John lineage (see Volume II). A charter records that "*Thomas de Sancto Johanne*" had constructed his castle at Saint-Jean with wood taken from land of the abbey of Saint-Michel and records his donation in settlement of their claim, signed by "*Thoma, Johanne fratre eius et Rogerio...*".<sup>83</sup> A charter dated 1121 confirmed the possessions of Lewes Priory including the donation of "*...ecclesiam de Cunctona...*" by "*Rogeri de Sco Johe*".<sup>84</sup> Orderic Vitalis records that "*Rogierius de Sancto Johanne et Johannes frater eius*" defended the castle of La Motte-Gautier against Foulques V Comte d'Anjou for Henry I King of England in 1118<sup>85</sup>. The 1130 Pipe Roll records "*fili Rogi de sco Johe...releuat tre patis sui*" in Hampshire.<sup>86</sup> He married Cecilla de la Haye, daughter of Robert de la Haye & his wife Muriel \_\_\_\_\_. Her parentage is confirmed by the charter dated May 1111 under which her maternal grandfather "*Picotus filius Colwani Linc. cum uxore et quodam nepote...Ricardi et quadam nepte...Cecilia*" donated revenue from "*villa...Suttona et Luttona*" to Spalding Monastery<sup>87</sup>. A manuscript recording the founding of Boxgrove Priory, Sussex states that "*Roberti di Haya...Ceciliam filiam suam*" married "*Rogero de sancto Johanne*".<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> Orderic Vitalis (Prévost), Vol. IV, Liber XII, IV, p. 323.

<sup>81</sup> Round (1899), 710, p. 252.

<sup>82</sup> Dugdale Monasticon V, Kingswood Priory, Wiltshire I, p. 425.

<sup>83</sup> Round (1899), 711, p. 252.

<sup>84</sup> Round, J. H. (ed.) (1888) *Ancient Charters Royal and Private prior to A.D. 1200* (London) ("*Ancient Charters (Round)*"), Part I, 8, p.

11.

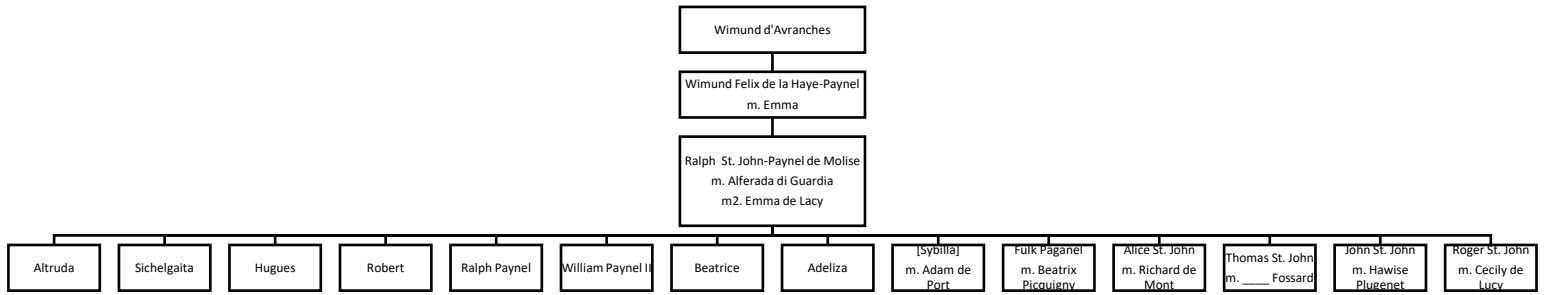
<sup>85</sup> Orderic Vitalis (Prévost), Vol. IV, Liber XII, IV, p. 323.

<sup>86</sup> Pipe Roll 31 Hen I (1129/30), Hampshire, p. 43.

<sup>87</sup> Dugdale Monasticon III, Spalding Monastery, Lincolnshire, XII, p. 218.

<sup>88</sup> Dugdale Monasticon, Vol. IV, Boxgrave Priory, VI, p. 646.





In 1086 he was the Sheriff of Yorkshire, England as ‘Ralph Paynel’. Ralph was a Domesday holder in 1086. In West Rasen, “*Rolf 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*”<sup>89</sup>. West Rasen was worth 20s in 1066 and 30s in 1086. This West Rasen property passed in part from Wimund to his son Ralph, 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. In 1088, Radulfi Paganelli witnessed a charter at Mont Saint-Michel regarding the baronies of St. Pair, Genets, d’Ardevon. In 1091 a confirmation by King William II to the church of Salisbury was witnessed by Ranulf Paganel.

The pre-conquest Christ Church in Yorkshire was reestablished by Ralph and renamed Holy Trinity of York. He revitalized the church and brought monks from Marmoutier in c. 1089<sup>90</sup>. In a charter dated 1092, “Ralph, name of Molisio, by the grace of God count of the county of Boiano” made a gift to Monte Cassino for the souls, among others, of his parents, Wimund and Emma, and his brothers Robert, Hugh, Antony, Wimund, Alan, and Turstin. We know Wimund Felix was dead by March 1092.

Between 1087-1100, he witnessed a notification charter in Northamptonshire as Ralf Paganel. 1096-1098 He was addressed as Ralph Paganel in a Precept by King William II. Ralph issued a foundation Charter at Holy Trinity in Yorkshire, England between 1090-1100. This coincides with bringing the monks from marmoutier c. 1089.

Ralph died after March 1092 and probably by 1100-1108 when Henry I addressed Gerard archbishop of York and Osbert the sheriff and all his barons where he granted to the monks of Marmoutier the endowment of Ralf Paynel (Paganelli) in lands, churches, and tithes namely the church of the Holy Trinity of York, free and quit...with all the dues it enjoyed in his father’s [Wimund Felix] time and before.

Ralph Paynel, the son, was the son of Alferada de Guardia not Emma de Lacy, the sister of Gilbert de Lacy so it makes no sense how he could have inherited West Riding [Barwick in Elmet] from Gilbert de Lacy, the Domesday tenant, his step-uncle. Therefore, it was the father Ralph that obtained West Riding by marriage. The Domesday Ralph Paynel is most certainly Ralph of St. John-Paynel, the father and not the son.

The son, Ralph Paynel was of

- Hooton-Pagnell, Yorkshire that was held by Richard de Sourdeval in Domesday. His father-in-law.
- Irnham, Beltisloe, Lincolnshire
- East Quantockshead, Williton, Somerset

Most likely, Ralph, the son, remained in Italy until about March 1092 when his father Ralph of St. John made the gift to Monte Cassino. Wimund Felix probably died about 1092 provoking Ralph’s March 1092 charter in Italy. He probably buried his father with his mother.

<sup>89</sup> Great Domesday Book. National Archive of Kew reference E 31/2/2/7009. 1086. folio 342v.

<sup>90</sup> Previous researchers, historians and book authors were unaware of Ralph St. John’s origin and therefore did not recognize him as Ralph Paynel, upon the death of his brother William Paynel. The Norman elite had a pattern of establishing churches near the end of their life and this Holy Trinity of York is probably no different. Ralph St. John-Paynel, Jr. seems to have died between 1115-1122, so it is not likely that this event should be attributed to him.

Ralph the son, probably then came to Yorkshire with his father, Ralph of St. John-Paynel where he then married Mathilda de Sourdeval and inherited Hooton-Pagnell by marriage. His father probably granted him Irnham and East Quantockshead at that time.

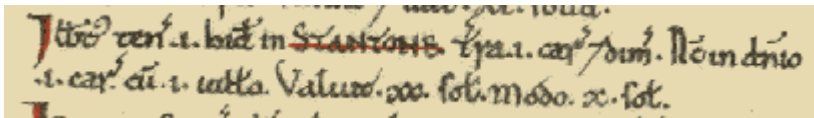
Towards the end of his life Ralph of St. John-Paynel then reestablished the Holy Trinity of York and died 1096-1108. His son Ralph Paynel died between 1122 and 1124.

## Identification of Ralph of St. John

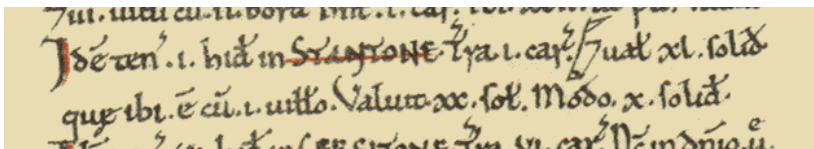
Ralph of St. John, son of Wimund Felix de la Haye-Paynel, of Moutiers-Hubert, Moulin's Castle in Heimes and of Castle Pagano in Italy, was known by several by-names: Paynel, de Moulins/Molise, de St. John, de Bréhal, and sometimes simply as 'Ralph, Count Boiano', 'Ralph', or as 'Ralph son of Wimund', 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 Paynel. Ralph of St. John is not recognized as the Count of Boiano and historians make them separate men. Ralph St. John is denied participation in Hastings and as a Domesday tenant by historians and academicians because he was not recognized as Ralph Paynel. Ralph St. John's brother, William Paynel (I) has been confounded with their uncle, William d'Avranches son of Wimund d'Avranches. William Paynel (I) is incorrectly named as the father of his nephews Ralph Paynel, Fulk Paynel and grandfather to his nephew William Paynel (II); they are instead the sons of Ralph St. John-Paynel, brother of William Paynel (I).

## STANTON [ST JOHN]

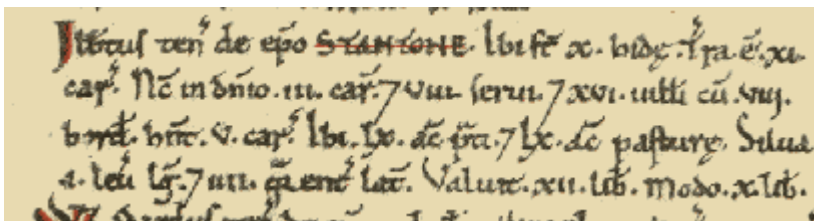
- **Hundred:** Headington
- **County:** Oxfordshire
- **Total population:** 34 households (quite large).
- **Total tax assessed:** 12 geld units (very large).
- Stanton [St John] appears in 3 entries in Domesday Book



- **Taxable units:** Taxable value 1 geld units.
- **Value:** Value to lord in 1066 £1. Value to lord in 1086 £0.5.
- **Households:** 1 villager.
- **Ploughland:** 1.5 ploughlands (land for). 1 lord's plough teams.
- **Lord in 1086:** Ilbert (of Lacy).
- **Tenant-in-chief in 1086:** Bishop Odo of Bayeux.
- **Phillimore reference:** 7,30



- **Taxable units:** Taxable value 1 geld units.
- **Value:** Value to lord in 1066 £1. Value to lord in 1086 £0.5.
- **Households:** 1 villager.
- **Ploughland:** 1 ploughland (land for).
- **Lord in 1086:** Ilbert (of Lacy).
- **Tenant-in-chief in 1086:** Bishop Odo of Bayeux.
- **Phillimore reference:** 7,63



- **Taxable units:** Taxable value 10 geld units.
- **Value:** Value to lord in 1066 £12. Value to lord in 1086 £10.
- **Households:** 16 villagers. 8 smallholders. 8 slaves.
- **Ploughland:** 11 ploughlands (land for). 3 lord's plough teams. 5 men's plough teams.
- **Other resources:** Meadow 60 acres. Pasture 60 acres. Woodland 1 league \* 4 furlongs mixed measures.
- **Lord in 1086:** Ilbert (of Lacy).
- **Tenant-in-chief in 1086:** Bishop Odo of Bayeux.
- **Phillimore reference:** 7,20

# printed copy...

In 2020, the St. John newsletter will be available for purchase in combined booklets for each complete year.

## DNA isn't just for scientists

The St. John Genealogy & DNA project has been an ongoing DNA effort since 2002. Suzanne St. John became the volunteer administrator for the project in 2013.

In this role, she documented the lineages, where known, of each test subject. She has compared DNA results, compiled reports, and documented genetic family trees. Test subjects are identified by kit numbers not names.

FTDNA projects:

St. John Family DNA Project: 154 members.  
<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/st-john/about/background>

Glamorgan Wales Cousin Project: 461 members.  
<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/glamorgan-wales-cousins/about/background>

AncestryDNA share results with THEPOETZ



coming soon >>>

## In the Next Issues

- *Living Trees Genealogy Network*
- *Sir William St. John, Knight*
- *The St. John Family Website*
- *Pedigree Reports*

Contact us at [stjohngenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:stjohngenealogy@gmail.com) <https://www.stjohngenealogy.com>



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