

Beaumont

The Beaumont Name and Arms

Beaumont is a place name derived from Norman French for “fair or beautiful hill” and presumably refers to one who lives on or near such a place. The first person to bear the name was Roger de Beaumont, Seigneur of Beaumont and Pont-Audemer. (See Generation Three) Pont-Audemer is located between Rouen and Caen in Normandy. Beaumont le Roger, named for Roger de Beaumont, is about 30 miles west of Evreux in Normandy.

The arms of Beaumont are described as “Azure, semée de lis, and a lion rampant, Or” which means “a blue shield with a gold lion, his forepaws in the air and surrounded by gold fleur de lis.”



Generation One

Thorold, Seigneur of Pont-Audemer

Circa 1000 A.D.

Thorold was said to be a son of “Torf” and his wife “Wewa” or “Awelina” who was said to be a sister of Gunnor of Crêpon, second wife of Richard (I) “the Fearless”, 3rd Duke of Normandy; but this cannot be proved conclusively. (See *Normandy*, Generation Seven) Hence, Thorold is regarded as the earliest authenticated ancestor. Regardless of his forebears, Thorold had a son:

- **Humphrey de Vieilles**, mentioned next.

Generation Two

Humphrey de Vieilles, Seigneur of Vieilles and Pont-Audemer

Humphrey was a follower of Robert (I) “the Devil”, 6th Duke of Normandy. He founded at Préaux, near Pont-Audemer, two monasteries: St. Pierre for monks about 1035, and St. Leger for nuns about 1040. Humphrey is said to have become a monk at St. Pierre-de-Préaux where he died and was buried.

Humphrey de Vieilles married Aubrey or Aubrée, perhaps Aubrée de la Haie and they had the following children:

- **Roger de Beaumont**, mentioned next.
- Robert
- William
- Dunelme

Generation Three

Roger de Beaumont, Seigneur of Beaumont and Pont-Audemer

Roger remained faithful to the young Duke William during the disturbances of the earlier part of his reign. (See *Normandy*, Generation Ten) He furnished 60 ships for the invasion of England in 1066, but he remained in Normandy as the principal advisor to Duke William’s wife Mathilda who was left in charge of Normandy while William was occupied at the Battle of Hastings and so on.

About 1088, Roger founded the collegiate church of the Holy Trinity at Beaumont-le-Roger for canons of St. Frideswide of Oxford. He was also a benefactor of St. Pierre-de-Préaux and of St. Wandrille. Shortly after 1090, Roger became a monk at the Abbey of Préaux. He died there some years later on December 3, but the year is unknown.

Roger married Adeline, daughter of Waleran, Count of Meulan. Adeline's brother was Hugh, Count of Meulan who d.s.p. (died without issue) thereby making Adeline's son Robert Count of Meulan in 1081.

Roger de Beaumont and Adeline had the following children:

- **Robert de Beaumont**, mentioned next.
- Henry de Newburgh, born circa 1046, died on June 20, 1123 and created 1st Earl of Warwick circa 1090. He married Margaret de Perche; their son:
 - o Roger de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, died June 12, 1153, married before 1130 to Gundred de Warren (See *Warren*, Generation Four)
- Aubrey, Abbess Saint Leger-de-Préaux

Generation Four

Robert de Beaumont, Count of Meulan

Born circa 1046

Died on June 5, 1118

Although Robert became the 1st Earl of Leicester, he was never styled thus. He was already the Count of Meulan in the French Vexin; and not expected that a person who was a great Count would change his style for a new dignity. He was also Seigneur of Beaumont, Pont-Audemer, Brionne and Vatteville in Normandy. (See *Complete Peerage*, Vol. VII, pg. 525 for details.)

Robert was very young, probably about 20, when he accompanied Duke William to England where he was most certainly present at the Battle of Hastings. (See *Normandy*, Generation Ten) In 1081, he inherited from his mother's family the comté of Meulan and was thereafter referred to as "Count of Meulan". Robert was one of the chief lay ministers of William (II) Rufus, King of England from 1087 to 1100, with whom he sided against Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy. On the death of William Rufus he became one of the chief advisors of King Henry (I) Beauclerc.

In 1110 Robert was besieged at Meulan by King Louis (VI), aka "Louis the Fat", King of France, who took the castle by storm. In the following year, he retaliated by plundering Paris. He destroyed the bridges over the Seine, thus preventing Louis the Fat from coming to the relief of the city while enabling himself to make a safe retreat with his booty.

Robert de Beaumont married in 1096 to **Isabel of Vermandois** (See *Capet*, Generation Fifteen) and they had the following children:

- Waleran de Beaumont (1104 - 1166, twin brother of Robert de Beaumont, mentioned next), Count of Meulan and Earl of Worcester who married circa 1141 to Agnes de Montfort, a daughter of Amauri de Montfort, Count of Évreux. They had a son:
 - o Robert de Beaumont (died in 1207), Count of Meulan.
- **Robert de Beaumont**, mentioned next
- Hugh de Beaumont, said to have been created Earl of Bedford.

- Adeline de Beaumont, who married Hugh IV, Seigneur of Montfort-sur-Risle.
- Aubrey de Beaumont, who married Hugh II, Seigneur of Chateauneuf-en-Thimerais.
- Maud de Beaumont, who married William Louvel, Seigneur of Ivri and Brevel.
- **Isabel (or Elizabeth) de Beaumont** who first “had an affair” with King Henry I of England (See *Normandy*, Generation Eleven) and later married **Gilbert FitzGilbert de Clare**. (See *De Clare*, Generation Four)

Isabel de Crépi of Vermandois married secondly circa 1118 to **William de Warenne**, 2nd Earl of Warren & Surrey. (See *Warren*, Generation Four)

Generation Five

Robert de Beaumont, 2nd Earl of Leicester

Born circa 1104

Died on April 5, 1168

Robert and his twin brother Waleran were brought up in the court of King Henry (I) Beauclerc on account of the King's gratitude to their father. Robert and Waleran accompanied Henry when he interviewed Pope Calixtus at Gisors in November 1119, where they astonished the Cardinals by their learning.

Robert supported King Stephen during his tumultuous reign but appears to have made a truce with the Angevin party after the defeat of Stephen at the Battle of Lincoln on February 2, 1141. He eventually supported King Henry (II) Curtmantle and rose in that King's favour. He took the part of the King during the struggle with Thomas à Becket.

Robert married **Amice de Montfort** (See *Osbern*, Generation Six) sometime after the sinking of the White Ship on November 25, 1120 when Richard, a natural son of King Henry (I) Beauclerc to whom Amice had been contracted, was drowned. Richard and Amice had the following children:

- **Robert de Beaumont**, mentioned next.
- Isabel de Beaumont who married firstly Simon de St. Liz (II), Earl of Huntingdon and secondly Gervase Paynel
- **Hawise de Beaumont** who married **William Fitz Robert**, Earl of Gloucester (See *Normandy*, Generation Thirteen)
- **Margaret de Beaumont** who married Ralph de Tosny. Their daughter was very likely:
 - o **Ida de Tosny** who was a girlfriend of **King Henry II** and mother of **William Longespée**. (See *Angevin Kings*, Generation One) Ida later married **Roger Bigod**, 2nd Earl of Norfolk. (See *Bigod*, Generation Four)

Generation Six

Robert de Beaumont, 3rd Earl of Leicester

Died in 1190 at Durazzo, Greece (present day Durrës in Albania on the Adriatic Sea) on his return journey from Jerusalem.

Unlike his forebears who had enhanced their fortunes by adherence to the Crown, Robert followed a rebellious course. He supported Henry the Young King when he revolted against his father, King Henry (II) Curtmantle in 1173. He seems to have been in and out of trouble for the next ten or fifteen years; but by September 3, 1189 he was present at the Coronation of King

Richard (I) where he carried one of the Swords of State. In December 1189 he set out on a Crusade to Jerusalem and he died on the way back.

Robert married **Pernel (Petronilla) de Grandmesnil**, (See *Grandmesnil*, Generation Five) and they had the following children:

- William de Bréteuil who died before his father.
- Robert Fitz Pernel, eldest surviving son and heir. He was known as Robert de Bréteuil during his father's lifetime and later as Robert Fitz Pernel. He d.s.p. (died without issue)
- Roger de Beaumont who was Chancellor of William King of Scots and Bishop of St. Andrews.
- Amice de Beaumont who married as his second wife Simon de Montfort
- **Margaret de Beaumont** who married **Saher de Quincy**. (See *De Quincy*, Generation Three)
- Hawise de Beaumont who became a nun at Nuneaton
- Pernel de Beaumont

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