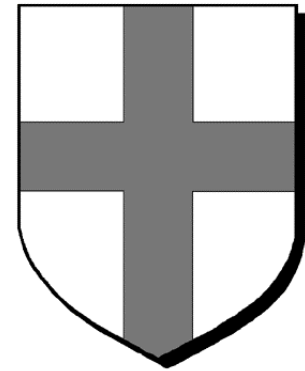


Bigod

Bigod Name and Arms

The origins of the name of the Bigod family are uncertain. It has been suggested that French people referred to all Normans as “Bigod” because they were said to swear frequently “by God.” It has also been suggested that the name means “superstitious” as in the word “bigot.”

The arms of this family are described as “Or, a cross gules” which means “a gold shield with a red cross.”



Bigod

Generation One

Robert le Bigod

Flourished circa 1066

The first Bigod to appear in history is Robert le Bigod, a poor Knight, who gained the favour of William, Duke of Normandy, by informing him of the intended treachery of William Werlenc, Count of Mortain. Robert held the lands of Malitot, Loges and Chanon in Normandy and served Duke William as one of his seneschals. He is described at the Battle of Hastings as; “Small of body, but brave and bold; he assaulted the English gallantly”.

Robert le Bigod had a son:

- **Roger de Bigod**, mentioned next.

Generation Two

Roger de Bigod

Died on September 8, 1107

Roger is also believed to have served on the Field of Hastings although there is no mention of him in English records before 1079. He was endowed with the forfeited estates of the Earl of Norfolk, Ralph de Guader who’s downfall took place in 1074. In the Domesday Book Roger appears as holding six lordships in Essex, and 117 in Suffolk. In 1101 he was given the estates of Framlingham by Henry I which were to become the principal stronghold of the Bigods for more than 200 years. Roger de Bigod was succeeded by his eldest son, William Bigod who drowned in the wreck of the White ship on 26th November 1120. Roger’s second son, Hugh Bigod, inherited all and took possession of the estates.

Roger married first to Adelaide and they had the following children:

- William de Bigod, drowned in the wreck of the White Ship on November 26, 1120.
- Gunnor de Bigod

Roger married second to Alice de Toeny (also Adelaide and Adela; de Tosny and de Toeni) who was a daughter or perhaps a granddaughter of Robert de Toeny (de Tosny, de Toeni) who may have been present at the Battle of Hastings. Roger and Alice had the following children:

- **Hugh de Bigod**, mentioned next.
- Maud de Bigod
- Cicely de Bigod

Generation Three

Hugh de Bigod, 1st Earl of Norfolk

Born circa 1095

Died in 1177 while in the Holy Land with Philip of Flanders

Hugh was Constable of Norwich Castle and Governor of the City of Norwich in 1122. He was excommunicated in 1169, and must have been quite an old man when he died in 1177.

Hugh married **Juliana de Vere**, a daughter of Aubrey de Vere, Justicar of England and Alice de Clare, a nun who was a daughter of Gilbert Fitz Richard de Clare. Juliana de Vere's nephew was Magna Charta Surety Robert de Vere (see *De Vere*)

Hugh and Juliana had a son:

- **Roger Bigod**, mentioned next.

Generation Four

Roger Bigod, 2nd Earl of Norfolk.

Died in 1221

Roger Bigod was one of the 25 sureties of the Magna Charta. (See *Magna Charta*) He built Framlingham circa 1190 - 1210. This revolutionary new castle without a keep reflected crusader experience; and is reminiscent of Byzantine fortresses. Its vast curtain-wall laced with strong towers enabled a large force including cavalry to be kept in the area of maximum defensibility.

Older sources report that Roger “. . . married Isabel, daughter of Hameline, Earl of Warren and Surrey.” (Richard Thomson: *An Historical Essay on the Magna Charta of King John*, London, 1829; page 280)

More recent sources agree that Roger Bigod married around Christmas 1181 to Ida de Tosny, who was very likely a daughter of Ralph V de Tosny (died 1162) and his wife Margaret (born circa 1125 and living in 1185), a daughter of Robert de Beaumont, 2nd Earl of Leicester. (see *Beaumont*, Generation Five) However, absolute and conclusive evidence of Ida's parentage is lacking. (Douglas Richardson: *Plantagenet Ancestry*, Baltimore, 2004, pages 456 – 457; Douglas Richardson: *Magna Carta Ancestry*, Baltimore, 2005, page 84; and Marc Morris: *The Bigod Earls of Norfolk in the Thirteenth Century*, Woodbridge, Suffolk, 2005, page 2)

Prior to marrying Roger Bigod, Ida was a girlfriend of **King Henry II** and mother of **William Longespée**. (see *Angevin Kings*, Generation One)

Roger and Ida had the following children:

- **Hugh Bigod**, mentioned next,
- Mary Bigod who married the Yorkshire baron Ranulf fitz Robert.
- Margaret Bigod who married the royal steward William de Hastings.
- Alice Bigod who married Aubrey IV de Vere, 2nd Earl of Oxford (see *De Vere*, Generation Two)
Aubrey IV de Vere d.s.p. (died without issue)
- Roger Bigod
- Ralph Bigod
- William Bigod
- John Bigod

Generation Five

Hugh Bigod, 3rd Earl of Norfolk and Earl Marshal of England.

Died: 1225

Hugh Bigod was one of the 25 sureties of the Magna Charta. (see *Magna Charta*) Hugh succeeded to his father's estates in 1221, but he enjoyed the title of Earl of Norfolk but a very few years, since he died in 1225. Hugh married in 1207 to **Maud Marshal**, Marshall of England, daughter of Sir William Marshal. (see *Marshal*, Generation Three) Hugh and Maud had the following children:

- Roger Bigod, 4th Earl of Norfolk, born in 1212
- Hugh Bigod, Justiciar of England
- **Isabel de Bigod**, mentioned next.
- Sir Ralph Bigod
- William Bigod

Generation Six

Isabel de Bigod

Isabel married first to Gilbert de Lacy (died in 1230) and they had the following children:

- Margery de Lacy
- Maud de Lacy
- Walter de Lacy

Isabel married second after 1230, Sir John Fitz Geoffrey who was a son of Geoffrey Fitz Piers, Earl of Essex. Sir John Fitz Geoffrey was Justicar of Ireland 1245 – 1256. He died on November 23, 1258. Isabel and Sir John Fitz Geoffrey had the following children:

- Isabel Fitz John
- Sir John Fitz John
- Richard 1st Lord Fitz John
- Maud Fitz John
- **Aveline Fitz John**, mentioned next.
- Joan Fitz John

Generation Seven

Aveline Fitz John

Died about May 20, 1274

Aveline married Walter de Burgh (1230 – July 28, 1271), Earl of Ulster. Walter's parents were Richard "the Great" de Burgh, Lord of Connacht and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Egidia de Lacy who was the daughter of Walter de Lacy, Lord of Meath.

Aveline and Walter had the following children:

- Richard de Burgh, the Red Earl, 3rd Earl of Ulster
- **Egidia de Burgh** who married **James Stewart**. (see *Scotland: Stewart*, Generation Eight)

Sources

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