

Fitz Walter

Robert Fitz Walter

This chapter is named for Robert Fitz Walter, the leader of the 25 barons who compelled King John to sign the Magna Charta on June 15, 1215. His surname is from his father's Christian name Walter, as shown below. This family continued to take surnames from the Christian name of the previous generation until Robert's great grandson who was the first to retain the Fitz Walter name regardless of his father's given name.

The arms of Robert Fitz Walter are described as "Or a fess between two chevrons gules" which means "A gold shield with a horizontal red bar between two red chevrons."

Richard Thomson wrote of this baron:

"The family of this very celebrated leader of the English Barons, was both ancient and also of very considerable rank, as the first members of his house were connected with the Earls of Brion, Buckingham, and Huntingdon; and the celebrated Lords of Clare sprang from a scion of the same stock. Robert, Baron of Dunmow, was the first of his line who bore the surname of Fitz-Walter, in allusion to the christian appellation of his father, Walter Fitz-Robert: his mother was Maude de St. Liz, or Lucy, who died in 1140, being the first wife of his father. In the year 1111 William Baynard forfeited to the crown the honour of Castle-Baynard and the Barony of Dunmow, on being found guilty of felony; and King Henry I. presented these Lordships to his Steward, Robert Fitz Richard, through whom they descended in a right line to his grandson, Robert Fitz-Walter. He was admitted to the livery of such lands as descended to him from his uncle, Geoffrey de St. Lucy, Bishop of Winchester, in 1204-5, the 6th of John, upon payment of 300 marks, £198."

(Richard Thomson: An Historical Essay on the Magna Charta, London, 1829 page 504)

The item above indicates that Magna Charta Surety Robert Fitz Walter's mother was "Maude de St. Liz, or Lucy . . ." Maude de St. Liz was his grandmother and Maud de Lucy was his mother. See Generations One and Two below.

Generation One

Robert Fitz Richard, Lord of Little Dunmow and Steward to King Henry I.

Died between 1134 and 1136

Robert was a son of **Richard Fitz Gilbert de Clare**, Lord of Clare, and his wife Rohese Giffard. (See *De Clare*, Generation Three) Robert married **Maud (Matilda) de St Liz**, daughter of Simon de St Liz, Earl of Huntingdon and Northampton and his wife Maud of Huntington (See *Normandy*, Generation Nine) Robert died between 1134 and 1136, and Maud then married to **Saher de Quincy**. (See *De Quincy*, Generation One) Maud died between 1158 and 1163, probably about 1140. Robert Fitz Richard and Maud de St. Liz had a son:

- **Walter Fitz Robert**, mentioned next

(Thomson: p.504. Complete Peerage vol.XII/2, p.745-6. Weis, Ancestral: 148-25. Roberts: p.562.)



Fitz-Walter

Generation Two

Walter Fitz Robert

Died in 1198

Walter married first to Maud de Bohun and secondly to Maud de Lucy, daughter of Sir Richard de Lucy, Justicar of England. Walter and Maud de Lucy, had the following children:

- **Robert Fitz Walter**, mentioned next.
- Alice Fitz Walter who married Gilbert Pecche

(Thomson: p.504. Weis, Ancestral: 148-26. Roberts: p.562-563.)

Generation Three

Robert Fitz Walter of Woodham, Lord of Dunmow Castle

Died December 9, 1235

Robert Fitz Walter was frequently at odds with King John. (See *Angevin Kings*, Generation Two) In 1203, Robert and Saher de Quincy (See *De Quincy*, Generation Three) were in charge of the Castle of Ruil in France which they surrendered to the King of France without putting up much resistance. In 1215, Robert was the leader of the Magna Charta Barons. Then, when King John attempted to welsh on the Magna Charta in 1216, Robert Fitz Walter was among the deputation that invited Louis the Dauphin (son of King Philip II Augustus of France and later King Louis VIII “the Lion” of France 1223 - 1226) to invade England. To make matters even worse, he actually assisted the Dauphin during the invasion. Thus, it is easy to understand why there were a lot of hard feelings between Robert and King John - - - and all indications are that King John wasn't an easy person to get along with in the first place. For futher details, see Richard Thomson: *An Historical Essay on the Magna Charta*, London, 1829, pages 504-511.

For the story of Louis the Dauphin's invasion of England, see Sidney Painter: *William Marshal*, University of Toronto Press, 1997, especially chapters IX, X, and XI.

Robert married Rohese, and they had a son:

- **Walter Fitz Robert**, mentioned next.

According to legend, Robert Fitz Walter also had a daughter:

- Matilda (also Maid Marian, Maude and Malkin.) This is the beautiful but legendary girlfriend of the equally legendary outlaw Robin Hood. (See Scotland, Generation Twenty-five) This story seems to have its origin in a rare play: *The Downfall of Robert, Earl of Huntingdon, afterwards called Robin Hood of merrie Sherwoode; with his love to chaste Matilda, the Lord Fitz-Walter's daughter, afterwards his fair Maid Marian*. Black letter, 1601 4to. See Richard Thomson: *An Historical Essay on the Magna Charta*, London, 1829, pages 505 - 507 for further details of the poisoning of Maid Marian by King John and so on.

(Thomson: p.504-511. Richardson, Magna Carta: p.344-345. Weis, Magna Charta: 50-1. Weis, Ancestral: 148-27. Painter: p. 133, 212.)

Generation Four

Sir Walter Fitz Robert of Woodham-Walter, Burnham, Roydon, Dunmow, etc.

Died before April 10, 1258

Walter Fitz Walter married **Ida Longespée**, daughter of William Longespée and Ela of Salisbury, not to be confused with her sister of the same name who married Sir William de Beauchamp. (See *Longespée*, Generation One) Walter and Ida had the following children:

- Robert Fitz Walter who married first to Devorguil de Burgh and secondly to Eleanor de Ferrers.
- **Ela Fitz Walter**, mentioned next.
- Katherine and Lora, both of whom became nuns.

(Weis, Magna Charta: 50-2. Weis, Ancestral: 30-27, 148-28. Richardson, Plantagenet: p.326-327. Richardson, Magna Carta: p.345. Roberts: p.455.)

Generation Five

Ela Fitz Walter

Ela married William de Odyngsells, of Maxstoke, co. Warwick (born circa 1235 and died in on April 19, 1295) and was a son of William and Joan Odyngsells. William de Odyngsells was, among other things, Justicar of Ireland. In 1294 the king granted him the castle of Dunamon in Connaught in Ireland. Ela and William had the following children:

- Edmund de Odyngsells
- Ida de Odyngsells who married first to Roger de Herdeburgh and secondly to John de Clinton
- Ela de Odyngsells wife of Peter de Bermingham and possibly Philip Percel
- Alice de Odyngsells wife of Maurice or Thomas Caunton
- **Margaret de Odyngsells**, mentioned next.

(Weis, Magna Charta: 50-3. Weis, Ancestral: 30-28. Richardson, Plantagenet: p.553. Richardson, Magna Carta: p.628. Roberts p.455.)

Generation Six

Margaret de Odyngsells

Born circa 1277 (aged 18 in 1295)

Died circa 1330

Margaret married first to Sir John de Grey of Rotherfield (born circa 1272 and died on October 17, 1311) and was son and heir of Robert de Grey by Joan, daughter of Thomas de Valoines of Shabbington, Buckinghamshire. John de Grey fought in Scotland in 1298, 1299 and 1300. He was present at the siege of Caerlaverock.

Margaret and John had a son:

- **John de Grey**, mentioned next.

Margaret married secondly to Robert de Moreby. They had one son, William.

(Weis, Magna Charta: 50-4. Weis, Ancestral: 30-29. Richardson, Plantagenet: p.553-554. Richardson, Magna Carta: p.628-629.)

Generation Seven

Sir John de Grey, First Lord Grey of Rotherfield

Born on October 9, 1300

Died on September 1, 1359

John de Grey, Knight of the Garter, 1st Lord Grey of Rotherfield was a Founder Knight of the Order of the Garter in 1348. John Grey had an argument with William la Zouche Mortimer, 1st Lord Zouche in January 1331/32 and he drew his knife in the presence of the King. He was committed to prison and was pardoned on March 27, 1332. John was summoned to Parliament from November 15, 1338 to December 15, 1357.

John married first to before 1311/12 to Katherine, daughter and heir of Sir Bryan Fitz Alan. They had one son, John de Grey, 2nd Lord Grey of Rotherfield. Katherine died before August 7, 1328. John married secondly before 1343 to **Avice Marmion**, daughter of Sir John Marmion, 2nd Lord Marmion. (see *Angevin Kings*, Generation Seven.)

John and Avice had the following children:

- John Marmion, Knight, died in 1387
- Robert de Grey, Knight, of Wilcote, Oxfordshire who married Lora de Saint Quintin.
- **Maud Grey** (See *Angevin Kings*, Generation Eight)

(Richardson, Plantagenet: p.554-555. Richardson, Magna Carta: p.629-630. Roberts: p.403.
Weis, Ancestral: 30-30, 219-31. Weis, Magna Charta: 50-5.)

For the continuation of this line, see *Angevin Kings* Generation Eight

Sources

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