

# Grandmesnil

## The Arms and Pedigree of Grandmesnil

The arms of Grandmesnil are described as “gules, a pale or” which means “a red shield with a broad, vertical gold line in the middle.”

The pedigree shown below is described in *The Complete Peerage* as “speculative” because of uncertainty between generations three and four. There is no conclusive evidence to show that Robert de Grandmesnil (Generation Three) had a son Hugh de Grandmesnil (Generation Four). However, all indications are that this was the case. The Norman Honour of Grandmesnil was inherited by Pernel de Grandmesnil (Generation Five) and passed on through her daughter Margaret to Saher de Quincy (see *De Quincy*, Generation Three) As well, historical documents refer to Pernel as a great granddaughter of Hugh de Grandmesnil, the Domesday tenant and a Companion of William the Conqueror, as shown below.



Grandmesnil

## Generation One

### Robert de Grentemesnil

Robert married Hawise de Giroie and they had a son:

- **Hugue (or Hugh) de Grentemesnil**, mentioned next.

## Generation Two

### Hugh de Grandmesnil

Died on February 22, 1094

Hugh de Grandmesnil was a Domesday tenant and a Companion of William the Conqueror. He accompanied Duke William to England where he was most certainly present at the Battle of Hastings. (See *Normandy*, Generation Ten) He was banished from Normandy by duke William in 1058 for very little cause, but was pardoned in 1063, at which time he was given the custody of the castle of Neufmarché-en-Lions. In 1067 he was one of those who, with William Fitz Osberne and Bishop Odo, were invested with the government of England during the king's absence. Hugh received 100 manors, mostly in Leicester, of which county he was sheriff. He was one of the Normans who interceded with king William on behalf of his son, Robert Curthose. On the ascension of William Rufus to the throne he supported Duke Robert, but later becoming dissatisfied with the conduct of the young duke, he left his cause and attached himself to the king. In 1090, though quite an old man, he was in Normandy opposing Robert de Belesme in his strongholds at Fourches and La Conebe on the River Orne. Having died in England on February 22, 1094, his body was taken to Normandy, where it was buried on the south side of the chapter house of St. Evroult next to his wife, who had previously been interred there.

Hugh married Adeliza, daughter of Ivo, count of Beaumont-sur-l'Oise, who brought him Brokesbourne in Herefordshire, and three lordships in Warwickshire. Hugh and Adeliza the following children:

- **Robert de Grandmesnil**, mentioned next.
- William de Grandmesnil who went to Apulia where he married Mabel, a daughter of Robert Guiscard and was not heard of again.

- Hugh de Grandmesnil who died young circa 1087 and was buried in St. Evroult
  - Ives de Grandmesnil succeeded to his father's lands in England which he mortgaged and lost to Robert, Count of Meulan. Ives married a daughter of Gilbert de Gand and had a son:
    - Ives de Grandmesnil who may have perished in the wreck of the White Ship.
  - Aubrey de Grandmesnil , the youngest son, who was brought up a clerk, but eventually became a knight.
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawise who died unmarried</li> <li>• Adeline who married Roger d'Ivri</li> <li>• Rohais who married Robert de Courci</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matilda who married Hugh de Montpincon</li> <li>• Agnes who married William de Say</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

### Generation Three

#### Robert de Grandmesnil

Robert inherited his father's Norman lands married 1st to Agnes, a daughter of Ranulph de Bayeux, 2nd to Emma, a daughter of Roberft d'Estouteville, and 3rd to Lucy, a daughter of Savary FitzCana. Robert had a daughter:

- Agnes who married Robert de Moulins

There is no further information as to his children. However, the Norman Honour of Grandmesnil which Robert inherited from his father eventually ended up in the hands the children of Pernel de Grandmesnil and her husband Robert de Beaumont. (See Generation Four) As well, Pernel's father has been named as Hugh de Grandmesnil; thereby strongly suggesting that Robert de Grandmesnil had a son:

- **Hugh de Grandmesnil**, mentioned next.

### Generation Four

#### Hugh de Grandmesnil

Hugh is named as the father of Pernel de Grandmesnil in the foundation narrative of Leicester Abbey; and although the story told there is fictitious, Pernel was a benefactress of the abbey, and it is possible that the writer may have had before him a document such as a list of obits giving the authentic name. This alternating nomenclature, viz. Hugh - Robert - Hugh, was a very usual system. Hence, it is strongly suspected that Hugh had a daughter:

- **Pernel (or Petronilla) de Grandmesnil** who married **Robert de Beaumont**. (See *Beaumont*, Generation Six)

For the continuation of this line, see *Beaumont*, Generation Six.

### Sources

George E. Cokayne: *The Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain and the United Kingdom*, Sutton Publishing, August 24, 2000, Volume VII, pages 532 - 534.

Frederick L. Weis and Walter L. Sheppard: *Ancestral Roots*, Baltimore, 1999, Line 53.

Crispin and Macary, *Falaise Roll*, Baltimore: Baltimore, 1985, page 60