

Marshal

The Family of William Marshal

While the origin of the Marshal family is veiled in obscurity, the name came from their hereditary position as marshals of the royal household. They were responsible for everything connected to the horses of the royal household, including the hawks and the hounds as well. They had the general duty of keeping order in the royal court/household, arranging for the billeting of members of the court, keeping tallies and other vouchers of the expenditures of the household, keeping rolls of all who performed their military service there, and being responsible for the imprisonment of debtors. The arms of William Marshal (See Generation Three below) are described as “Parted per pale, or and vert, a lion gules armed and langued azure” which means a “a shield, the left half gold and the right half green with a red lion, his forepaws in the air and his tongue and claws blue.”



Generation One

Gilbert Marshal

Died before 1130

Gilbert was The Marshal of the Royal Household of King Henry I; and is the first of the family to be found in historical documents.

Gilbert had the following sons:

- **John FitzGilbert Marshal**, mentioned next.
- William Giffard, Chancellor

Generation Two

John FitzGilbert Marshal

Died in 1164/65

John FitzGilbert Marshal was The Marshal of the Royal Household. During the wars between Matilda of England, daughter of King Henry I and her cousin King Stephen, John FitzGilbert Marshal supported first King Stephen and later Matilda.

John married first to and separated in 1141 from Aline Pipard and they had the following sons:

- Gilbert FitzJohn Marshal
- Walter Marshall

John married second after 1141 to Sibyl de Salisbury and they had the following children:

- John Marshal, Master Marshal, born in 1144, died in 1194
- **William Marshal**, mentioned next.
- Ansel Marshal
- Henry Marshal, Bishop of Exeter
- Margaret Marshal
- Maud Marshal

Generation Three

William Marshal, 4th Earl of Pembroke and Marshal of England

Born in 1146

Died on May 14, 1219, at Caversham, Berkshire, England

William Marshal was the Marshal of England, Protector of the Realm and Regent of England from 1216 to 1219. A man of superior ability and exemplary character, he served four British monarchs as a royal advisor and as a warrior of outstanding prowess. His life has been summarized in the biography by Sidney Painter: *William Marshal: Baron, Knight-Errant, Baron and Regent of England*, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1982

“The Earl of Pembroke has received a noble character from all the historians who have mentioned him. He was termed through the world a most renowned and powerful Knight; Governor both of the realm and the King’s person; a man of such worthiness, both in stoutness of stomach and martial knowledge, as England had few then which might be compared with him.”

. . . Richard Thomson: *An Historical Essay on the Magna Charta of King John*, London, 1829; page 288

William married in August 1189 at London, England to **Isabel de Clare**, Countess of Pembroke. (See *De Clare*, Generation Four) William and Isabel had the following children:

- **Maud Marshal** who married **Hugh Bigod** (See *Bigod*, Generation Five)
- William Marshal, 5th Earl of Pembroke, born about 1190, died April 6, 1231
- Richard Marshal, 6th Earl of Pembroke, born after 1190, died April 16, 1234
- Gilbert Marshal, 7th Earl of Pembroke, died June 27, 1241
- Walter Marshal, 8th Earl of Pembroke, born after 1198, died before March 12, 1244
- Anselm Marshal, 9th Earl of Pembroke, died December 22, 1245
- **Isabella Marshal** who married **Gilbert de Clare** (See *Normandy*, Generation Fifteen)
- Sibyl Marshal who married William de Ferrers, 5th Earl of Derby
- Eva Marshal who married William de Braose, Lord of Abergavenny
- Joan Marshal who married Warin de Munchensy, Lord of Swanscombe

Sources

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