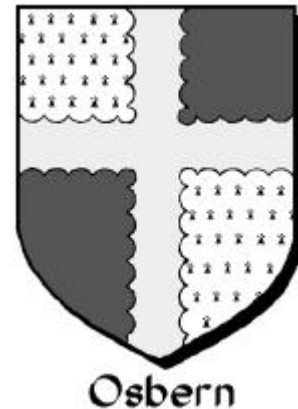


Osbern

Osbern Name and Arms

This chapter shows the family of Osbern, Steward or Dapifer of Normandy during the minority of William the Conqueror and his son William Fitz Osbern who was most certainly present at the Battle of Hastings.

The Osbern name is said to have its origin in the Old Germanic or Norse words “os” meaning “god” and “beran or beorn” meaning “to bear”; thus Osbern is “one borne by or descended from a god.” The arms of Osbern are described as “Quarterly, ermine and azure, a cross engrailed or” which means “Ermine fur and blue with a gold cross indented with a series of curves”



Generation One

Herfast de Crêpon

Herfast de Crêpon was thought to be a brother of Gunnor of Crêpon who married Richard I “the Fearless”, 3rd Duke of Normandy. (See *Normandy*, Generation Seven) Herfast de Crêpon had a son, but the name of his wife has been lost:

- **Osbern**, mentioned next.

Generation Two

Osbern, Steward of Normandy

Died (murdered) in 1040

Osbern was a guardian of the young Duke William of Normandy, later the William the Conqueror. Osbern was murdered in 1040 during an attempt on the life of the young Duke William that occurred right in William’s bedroom. (See *Normandy*, Generation Ten)

Osbern married Emma, a daughter of Count Rodulf who is said to be a half-brother of Richard (I) “the Fearless”, 3rd Duke of Normandy. (See *Normandy*, Generation Seven) Osbern and Emma had the following children:

- **William FitzOsbern**, mentioned next.
- Osbern (died 1103) who came to England before 1066 and was made Bishop of Exeter in 1072.

Generation Three

William FitzOsbern, 1st Earl of Hereford

Died (slain at the Battle of Cassel) in February 1071

William FitzOsbern, Steward to William the Conqueror, was most certainly present at the Battle of Hastings. (See *Normandy*, Generation Ten) He received large grants of land in England and was made Earl of Hereford in 1067.

William married Adelise de Tosny, daughter of Roger de Tosny. (This may be Ralf de Toeni, the Standard Bearer who was most certainly present at the Battle of Hastings, but we are uncertain of this.) William and Adelise had the following children:

- William who received his father's Norman estates.
- Roger of Breteuil, 2nd Earl of Hereford, and was deprived of his earldom after the rebellion of 1075.
- **Emma**, mentioned next.

Generation Four

Emma

Emma married in 1075 to Ralph de Gael, 1st Earl of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge and Seigneur of Montford de Gael in Brittany. Ralph was deprived of his English earldoms after the rebellion of 1075, and he died while on crusade circa 1096.

Emma and Ralph had the following son:

- **Ralph de Gael de Montford**, mentioned next.

Generation Five

Ralph de Gael de Montford, Seigneur of Montford de Gael in Brittany.

Ralph de Gael had a daughter:

- **Amice de Montfort**, mentioned next.

Generation Six

Amice de Montfort

Amice married to **Sir Robert de Beaumont**, 2nd Earl of Leicester, a son of Sir Robert de Beaumont, 1st Earl of Leicester (See *Beaumont*, Generation Five) and **Isabel of Vermandois** (See *Capet*, Generation Fifteen.)

For the continuation of this line, see *Beaumont*, Generation Five and *Capet*, Generation Fifteen

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