

Plantagenet

Plantagenet Name and Arms

Geoffrey “the Fair” Plantagenet (See Generation Five) was the first to use the Plantagenet name. One story relates that his father, Fulk the Younger atoned for some evil deed by being scourged with broom twigs or *planta genista* before the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Another story relates that Geoffrey wore a sprig of broom or *planta genista* in his hat. Regardless, it is generally agreed upon that the family name of “Plantagenet” has its origins with the *planta genista* or broom plant.

The ancient arms of Anjou borne by the Plantagenet are described as “Gules, a chief argent over all an escarbuncle, or” which means “a red shield with a silver bar at the top and a gold cross of eight rays set with knobs and the arms ending in fleur-de-lis.” Shields were sometimes strengthened with iron bands radiating from the centre which eventually became a part of the coat of arms under the term escarbuncle.



Plantagenet

Generation One

Geoffrey “Ferole”, Count of the Gâtinais and Château Laudon

circa 1000

Geoffrey married Beatrice de Mâcon, daughter of Aubri Count of Mâcon and Burgundy and they had a son:

- **Aubri Geoffrey**, mentioned next.

Generation Two

Aubri Geoffrey, Count of the Gâtinais and Château Laudon

Died on April 11, 1046

Aubri Geoffrey married Ermengarde, heiress of Anjou (See *Charlemagne*, Generation Nineteen) who was born circa 1010/1015 and died on March 21, 1076. Ermengard was the sister of Geoffrey “Martel”, Count of Anjou who was born on October 14, 996 and d.s.p. (decessit sine prole, died without issue) on November 14, 1066. Thus, Ermengard’s descendants became the Counts of Anjou.

Aubri Geoffrey and Ermengard had the following children:

- Hildegard who was born circa 1032 and married Joscelin, Sire di Courtenay
- **Fulk IV “le Rechin”**, mentioned next.

Generation Three

Fulk IV “le Rechin”, Count of Anjou

Born in 1043

Died on April 14, 1109

Fulk is noted as “chronicler of the Counts of Anjou”, so presumably he began a family history. He is known as “Fulk le Rechin” which means “Fulk the Rude”. The reason for this name is unclear.

Fulk married Bertrada de Montfort, daughter of Simon I, Seigneur of Montfort Amauri and they had a son:

- **Fulk V “le Jeun”**, mentioned next.

Generation Four

Fulk V “le Jeun”, Count of Anjou and Maine, King of Jerusalem

Born in 1092

Died on November 10, 1143 and interred in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

Fulk “le Jeun” (the Younger) became King of Jerusalem in 1131 on the death of Baldwin II, his father-in-law by his second marriage. The Crusaders set up the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem after killing many thousands of the Arab and Jewish inhabitants of the area. At its greatest extent under Fulk “le Jeun”, the Kingdom comprised most of present day Israel and part of Syria. Muslim counterattack steadily shrank the size of the crusading kingdom. In 1187, Jerusalem was retaken by Saladin. Eventually, the last Christian stronghold at Acre surrendered in 1291 and the Crusaders departed from the Holy Land.

Fulk married first circa 1108 to Erembourge (died in 1126), heiress of Maine, daughter of Helias, Seigneur de la Flèche, Count of Maine.

Fulk and Erembourge had the following children:

- **Geoffrey Plantagenet**, mentioned next.
- Isabella or Mathilda who married William the Aetheling, only legitimate son of King Henry Beauclerc of England (See *Normandy*, Generation Eleven)

Fulk “le Jeun” married second on June 2, 1129 to Mélesinde, daughter of Baldwin II, King of Jerusalem. On the death of Baldwin II in 1131, Fulk “le Jeun” became King of Jerusalem.

Generation Five

Geoffrey “the Fair” Plantagenet, Count of Anjou and Maine, Duke of Normandy.

Born on August 24, 1113

Died on September 7, 1151 and interred at St. Julian’s Church, Le Mans, Anjou.

Geoffrey “the Fair”, meaning “the Handsome” was the first to use the Plantagenet name. One story relates that his father, Fulk the Younger atoned for some evil deed by being scourged with broom twigs or *planta genista* before the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Another story relates that Geoffrey wore a sprig of broom or *planta genista* in his hat. Regardless, it is generally agreed upon that the family name of “Plantagenet” has its origins with the *planta genista* or broom plant.

Geoffrey married on May 22, 1127 to **Matilda of England** (See *Normandy*, Generation Eleven) who was born in 1104 and died on September 10, 1167. Matilda was the only surviving legitimate child of King Henry I of England. After the death of Henry I in 1135, Geoffrey laid claim to Normandy through his wife Matilda. Meanwhile, Matilda attempted the conquest of England from her cousin King Stephen (See *Normandy*, Generation Ten) who had gained the crown. Geoffrey did not accompany her, being still engaged in the conquest of Normandy, which he completed in 1144. In 1147 he undertook a crusade with King Louis VII of France. In 1150, Geoffrey and Matilda ceded Normandy to their son Henry, later King Henry II of England, who founded the English Angevin dynasty.

Geoffrey and Mathilda had the following sons:

- **Henry II Curtmantle**, King of England, born March 5, 1132/33. (See *Angevin Kings*)
- Geoffrey VI, Count of Nantes and Anjou, born June 1, 1134 and d.s.p July 26, 1158
- **William Longespée** (also William Fitz Empress), Vicomte of Dieppe, born July 21, 1136 and died January 30, 1163/64. He is not to be confused with his nephew William Longespée, named in the Magna Charta. (See *Longespée*)

Geoffrey and an unknown girlfriend, said by some sources to be named “Adelaide of Angers”. Geoffrey and his girlfriend had a son:

- **Hamelin Plantagenet of Anjou** who married Isabel de Warenne. Also known as Hamelin Plantagenet de Warenne, he became Earl of Surrey following his marriage to **Isabel de Warenne**. (see *Warren*, Generation Six)

Geoffrey also had two daughters, but the mother is not known:

- Emma (or Emme) Plantagenet who married Dafydd Ab Owain, Prince of North Wales. (See *Wales*, Generation Twenty-seven)
- Mary, Abbess of Shaftesbury

For the continuation of this line, see *Warren*, Generation Six

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