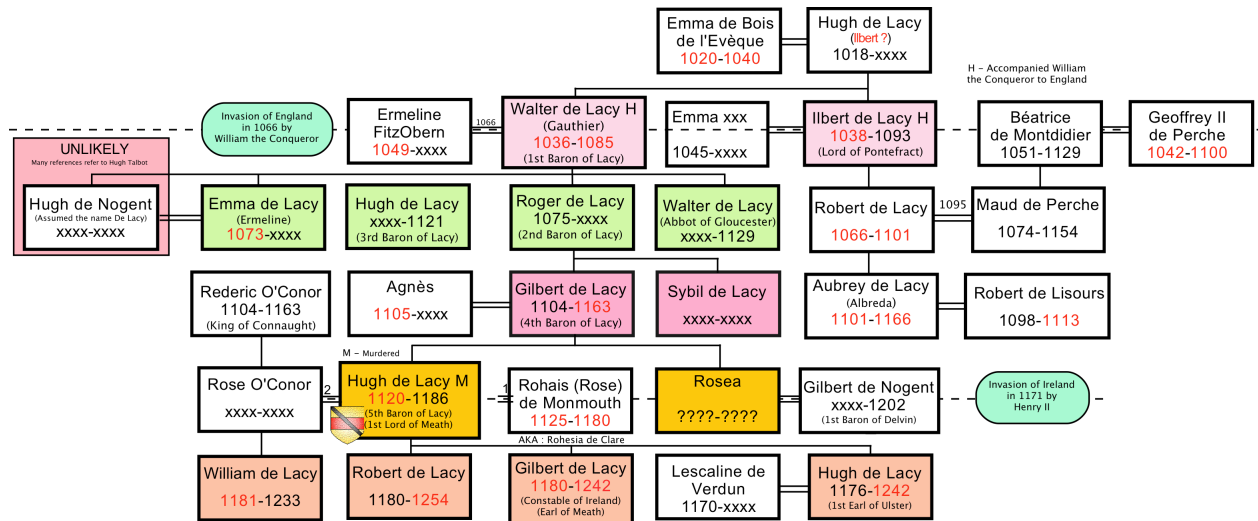


The De Lacy Family



The links between the De Lacy family and the de Nogent family are known to have existed over several centuries. In this document, we will attempt to clarify this relationship, and show the links which associated these two families, and the benefits that both families incurred.

The two famous family names were associated over the period beginning at the Norman Conquest, in 1066, and extending into the invasion of Ireland in 1172. The de Lacy family originated in Lassy in Normandy (our first records are found in the 10th Century), a noble family already associated with this county over a period of several generations. Descendants of the first known of the family, a certain Hugh de Lacy, assisted William of Normandy, in his conquest of England. His sons, Walter de Lacy, and his (probable) brother Ilbert, played a major role in the Conquest of England. They are both known to have fought in the battle of Hastings. At the same time, and as new associates of William, Duke of Normandy, the De Nogent family, from the Perche, in the form of Geoffrey II de Mortagne, Rotrou de Montfort, and Fulke de Nogent ¹, just across the border from Normandy, and in principle having totally different objectives, found themselves in the battlefields of England, with apparently common interests.

Some time after the Norman Conquest, a daughter of Geoffrey II de Mortagne and Beatrice de Montdidier, a certain Maud of Perche is reputed to have married Robert, a son of Ilbert de Lacy ². This is the first reference of a real association between the two

¹ These titles were probably attributed at a later date.

² There appears to be a confusion between Malthilda (Maud) de Perche, who married Raymond de Turenne, and a little known daughter of Geoffrey II de Mortagne, also called Maud, who is shown as having married into the de Lacy family. We will not insist upon this little known information, although it denotes the beginning of a close relationship between the two families.

families, although they have obviously frequented each other in the course of affairs with William of Normandy, King of England. There is also information suggesting that Emma de Lacy, sister of Walter de Lacy, married Hugh de Nogent, the son of Fulke de Nogent, who had settled in England after the Conquest. The said Hugh, adopted the name de Lacy after the marriage. We suggest that the Hugh in question was not Hugh de Nogent, but a certain Hugh Talbot, and this is supported by the fact that a de Nogent would never at this time take the name of de Lacy, even if it was well known. The de Nogent family was far too well known to accept a change of name. Although we can not confirm this possibility, the De Lacy and De Nogent families were nevertheless known to be close.

We are left to speculate upon the reason for which the de Nogent descendants, Gilbert de Nogent and his brother Richard (de Capella) were called upon to assist Hugh de Lacy in his expedition to Ireland with Henry II, in late 1171. It is probable that the relations between the two families had been maintained during their period of settlement in England. The two families may even have found themselves relatively close together in an unspecified part of England (or Wales), defending the interests of their new king, William. Relations between the two families must have been excellent after their arrival in Ireland, as Gilbert de Nogent married Emma, the sister of Hugh de Lacy. It is also true that relations between the Rotrou family and Henry II were at an all-time low. This may have incited members of the family to give a helping hand to Henry's plans in Ireland.

For whatever reason of close or distant association between the two families, the De Nogent brothers, Gilbert and Richard, were an integral part of the expedition to Ireland, and were rewarded, together with other families, with "large tracts of land in Meath". Hugh de Lacy's status in Ireland at the dawn of the year 1172, was certainly at a high. He was rewarded, above and beyond the call of duty, with the title of Viceroy (justiciar), which meant that he had almost the same powers as the King himself³ (with the notable exception of church matters), in the country of Ireland, a reward he used to the full.

Hugh de Lacy - Viceroy

The De Lacys (see the "Lacy" pedigree) came from Normandy with William the Conqueror, and were nominated Earls of Lincoln in England. Hugh de Lacy came to Ireland with King Henry the Second, A.D. 1171, and obtained from that monarch a grant of the whole kingdom of Meath. He was made lord palatine of Meath, and for many years chief governor of Ireland. He erected numerous castles, particularly in Meath and Westmeath, as those of Trim, Kells, Ardnorcher, Durrow, etc., and endowed some monasteries. He is thus described in Holingshed: "His eyes were dark and deep-set, his neck short, his stature small, his body hairy, not fleshy, but sinewy, strong and compact; a very good soldier, but rather harsh and hasty." It appears from Hanmer and others, that he was an able and politic man in state affairs, but very ambitious and covetous of

³ With the exception of religious matters, which would always rest with the crown, Hugh de Lacy was now authorized to create all levels of nobility up the level of Baronry. All of Hugh's major followers were thus declared Baron of the territories that they were allocated. Gilbert de Nogent became Baron of Delvin, a title which would be carried down to modern times.

wealth and great possessions; he is also represented as a famous horseman. De Lacy's second wife was a daughter of King Roderick O'Connor; and his descendants, the De Lacys, were lords of Meath, and earls of Ulster, and founded many powerful families in Meath, Westmeath, and Louth, and also in Limerick, some of whom were distinguished marshals in the service of Austria and Russia.

When King Henry returned to England, he was loath to leave a situation where Strongbow could continue to expand his power. He chose to nominate Hugh de Lacy as Viceroy, in order to establish a balance of control in Ireland. De Lacy firmly established himself in his new role, and divided the ancient Kingdom of Meath amongst his various chiefs. He conferred upon them, as was his prerogative as Viceroy, the titles of Baron :

1. Hugh Tyrrell obtained Castleknock, and his descendants were for a long period, barons of Castleknock.
2. Gilbert de Angulo (or Nangle) obtained Magherigallen, now the barony of "Morgallion," in Meath.
3. Jocelin, son of Gilbert Nangle, obtained Navan and Ardbraccan. The Nangles were afterwards barons of Navan; and many of them took the Irish name of "MacCostello," and from them the barony of Costello in Mayo derived its name.
4. William de Missett obtained Luin, and his descendants were barons of Lune, near Trim.
5. Adam Feipo or Phepoe obtained Skrine or Skryne, Santreff or Santry, and Clontorth (which means either Clonturk or Clontarf). This family had the title of barons of Skrine, which title afterwards passed to the family of Marward.
6. Gilbert FitzThomas obtained the territories about Kenlis, and his descendants were barons of "Kells."
7. Hugh de Hose obtained Dees or the barony of "Deece," in Meath.
8. Hussey, barons of Galtrim.
9. Richard and Thomas Fleming obtained Crandon and other districts. The Flemings became barons of Slane; and a branch of the family, viscounts of Longford.
10. Adam Dullard or Dollard obtained Dullenevarty.
11. **Gilbert de Nogent obtained Delvin; and his descendants were Barons of Delvin, and Earls of Westmeath.**
12. Richard Tuite obtained large grants in Westmeath and Longford. His descendants received the title of barons of Moyashell, in Westmeath.
13. Robert de Lacy received Rathwire in Westmeath, of which his descendants were barons.

14. Jeoffrey de Constantine received Kilbixey, in Westmeath, of which his descendants were barons.
15. William Petit received Castlebreck and Magheritherinan, now the barony of "Magheradernon" in Westmeath. The Petits became barons of Mullingar.
16. Myler Fitzhenry obtained Magherneran, Rathkenin, and Athinorker, now "Ardnorcher."
17. **Richard "de Capella", brother of Gilbert de Nogent, obtained "much land."**

The castle of Dearmagh or "Durrow," in the King's County, was under construction by De Lacy on the site of a famous monastery of St. Columcille in 1186, when he was treacherously slain by a "Galloglass" ⁴ named O'Meyey. His death was attributed by the uneducated Irish to that circumstance as a judgment from Heaven. The man who killed De Lacy fled to his accomplices in the wood of Clair or "Clara;" but it appears from MacGeoghegan and others, that the Irish attacked and put to the sword the English retinue at the castle of Durrow, and that having taken De Lacy's body into their possession, they concealed it for nearly ten years, when, A.D. 1195, it was interred with great pomp in the abbey of Bective, in Meath; Mathew O'Heney, Archbishop of Cashel, and John Comyn, Archbishop of Dublin, attending at the ceremony.

After the death of Hugh de Lacy, the family maintained its favourable situation with respect to King Henry. Hugh's son, also called Hugh was nominated Earl of Ulster.

**Grant of Ulster made by King John to Hugh de Lacy,
A. D. 1205. Patent Roll, T. L. 6 John.**

“ The King to Meyler Fitz Henry, &c. and the Barons of
“ Ireland, &c. Know ye, that we have given and granted to
“ Hugh de Lascy, for his homage and service, the land of
“ Ulster, with the appurtenances, to have and to hold as John
“ de Curcy held the same the day on which the same Hugh
“ overcame him in the field, or on the day preceding: SAVING
“ however to us the crosses of the same land :—And know ye,
“ that we do retain with us the aforesaid Hugh, and are lead-
“ ing him with us in our service ; and therefore to you we com-
“ mand that his land and all his you preserve, maintain and
“ defend as our demesne. Witness myself, at Windsor, the
“ 2nd day of May.”

⁴ Galloglass - mercenary warrior élite.

Charter from King Henry II to Hugh de Lacy

Grant of the Lordship of Meath from King Henry the Second
to Hugh de Lacy, A. D. 1172.

“ Henry King of England, Duke of Normandy and of
“ ‘Aquitaine, and Earl of Anjou, to the Archbishops, Bishops,
“ Abbots, Earls, Barons, Justices and others his Ministers
“ and Faithful, French, English and Irish of his whole land,
“ greeting. Know ye that I have given and granted, and by
“ this my present charter confirmed, to Hugh de Lacy, for
“ his service, **THE LAND OF MEATH**, with all its appur-
“ tenances, by the service of fifty knights, to him and his
“ heirs, to have and to hold from me and my heirs as Mur-
“ cardus Hu-Melachlin, or any other before or after him better
“ held the same. And for an increase of this, I give all the
“ fees which he rendered or will render about Dublin, while
“ he is my deputy to do me service at the City of Dublin :
“ Wherefore I will and firmly command, that the same Hugh,
“ and his heirs after him, the aforesaid land may have, and
“ hold all liberties and free customs which there I have or am
“ able to have, by the before named service, from me and my
“ heirs, well and in peace, freely and quietly and honourably,
“ in wood and in plain, in meadows and pascuages, in waters
“ and mills, in streams and pools and fishings and huntings,
“ in roads and ways, and ports of the sea, and in all other

“ places and things to the same belonging, with all liberties
“ which there I have or am able to give, and by this my
“ charter have confirmed. Witness, Earl Richard son of
“ Gilbert, William de Braosa, William de Albini, Reginald
“ de Cortenai, (&c.) at Wexford.”