

## Gilbert de Nogent

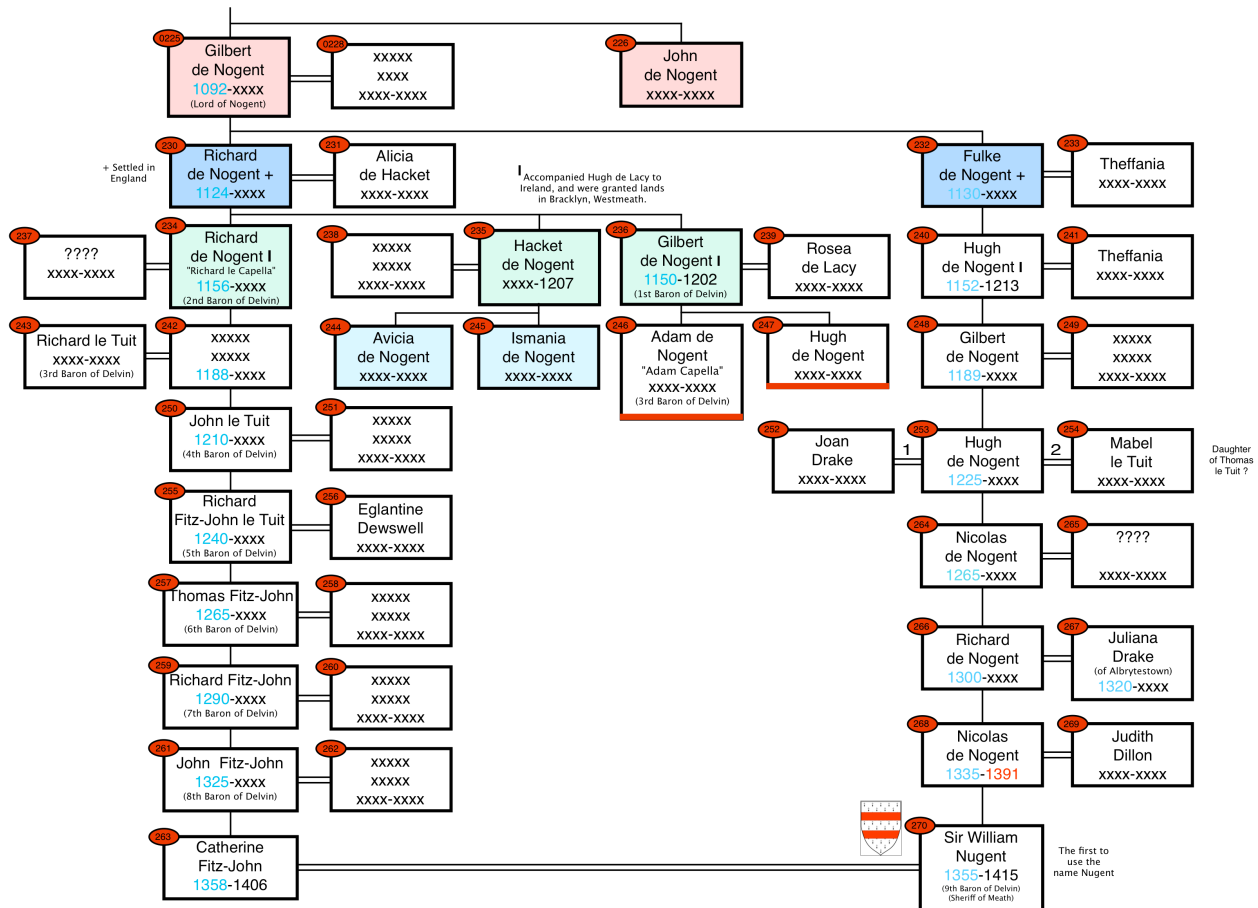
We have practically no knowledge of the descendants of the de Nogent family in England, after the Norman Conquest. Where they lived, and what they did for the hundred years between 1066 and 1171, is completely unknown. Because of their affiliation to the Count of Perche, they may have been royally treated by the several Kings of England that ruled during this period (William I, William II, Henry I, Stephen, Henry II). We do not know who compiled the names of the several generations of de Nogent descendants, and how they managed to know the names of all the males, but rarely the names of their wives. We must be suspicious of the fact that we have no birth or death dates. Lodge and Archdall <sup>1</sup> suggest that there were three successive sons called Gilbert de Nogent, of which the first was the son of Fulquois de Nogent (brother to Geoffrey II who participated in the Battle of Hastings). We can note a radical change in the Christian names of our descendants in England. Unfortunately, if we suppose a generation of about 25 years, in between the known Fulquois de Nogent and the Gilbert de Nogent who accompanied Hugh de Lacy to Ireland, we have a serious time-line problem, suggesting a missing generation. If they settled in London, or Winchester, they would have been invisible to data made available in the Domesday Book (1086). And so we must make some educated guesses about the birth date of our Gilbert, who accompanied Hugh de Lacie to Ireland, and eventually settled there. Our information concerning the first generations of the family in Ireland are confusing. There are two possible lines of descent <sup>2</sup> to Sir William Nugent (1355-1415 - probably the first to assume the name Nugent). We are unsure of the position of Nicholas de Nogent, who married Judith Dillon. Was he the father, or the brother of Sir William ?

The six generations of the family previous to this date are much of a mystery, as they faded out of public interest, having lost the Baronry of Delvin to the Le Tuite (Fitz-John) family. Of a certain Walter de Nogent who received land from Hugh de Nogent in 1309, we have no information, and can not place him on the family tree. We can only be sure of the Nugent descent in Ireland when Sir William Nugent recovered the title of Baron of Delvin, around 1407.

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<sup>1</sup> John Lodge and Mervyn Archdall - The Peerage of Ireland - Vol. 1 - Page 215

<sup>2</sup> 1- The peerage of Ireland, 2- The Internet site "Stirnet".



In the reign of Henry II, when the kingdom of Ireland became first subject to the English Crown, Sir Gilbert de Nugent, with his brethren and relations, accompanied Sir Hugh de Lacy (Lacie) in that expedition; to which Sir Hugh, the King allotting the County of Meath, to hold of the Crown by Knight's service, he gave to Sir Gilbert, in recompence of his brave and signal services, his sister Rosa in marriage, and, as a portion with her, the Baronry of Delvin to him and his heirs, with all the appurtenances<sup>3</sup> and towns (except the village of Torrochelach, belonging to the Abbot of Foure) to hold by the service of five Knights fees<sup>4</sup> as appears by the grant<sup>5</sup>, to which was affixed the seal of a Knight in complete armour on horseback. This large tract of land Sir Gilbert distributed to his brethren and others; his third brother

<sup>3</sup> I suppose we could loosely translate "appurtenances" as "lock, stock and barrel".

<sup>4</sup> Feudal rules in the Middle Ages included a knight fee or knight service whenever a title was given to a vassal. For more information concerning Feudal privileges and obligations, see chapter 3 of Book 1.

<sup>5</sup> In these words, "*Hugo de Lacie, omnibus sanctae Matris Ecclesie Filiis et omnibus suis et Amicis, Francis, Anglis, et Hibernicus salutem. Sciatis, me dedisse et presenti charta mea confirmasse Gilberto de Nugent et haeredibus suis Delvin totam, quam in tempore Hibernicorum tenerant O'Finilani, cum omnibus pertinentiis et villis, quae infra praedictam Delvin continentur (excepta quedam villa abbatis de Foure, nomini Torrochelach) pro fervito, quinque militum infra terram meam de Midia faciendo; fibi & haeredibus suis à me et heraedibus meis liberè et honorificè et plenariè tenendum in bosce et in plano, in pratis et pascuis, in ecclesiis & capellis, in viis et semitis, in aquis et piseariis, in stagnis et molendinis, et venationibus cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus, quas ibi habeo, vel habere debeo. Hiis testibus, William Parvo, Rob. de Bigarr, Gib. de Boscharr, Nich. Clerico, Phil. Clerico, Rog. Camerario, Ad. Clavigero, Rob. de Alto-Villari, Arm. de Bigarr, et aliis*".

Christopher, becoming seated at Balrath, and John at Brackloone; from whom probably descended Hugh de Nogent, living in 1296, (24 Edw. I.) who by Joan his wife, had Hugh, who, with his wife Margery, in 1309, gave 40s. to Walter de Nogent for licence of pasture in two parts of five carucates <sup>6</sup> of land in Taghmon.

### **Translation from Latin to English of the grant made by Hugh de Lacy to Gilbert de Nogent**

*Hugh de Lacy, to all the sons of Holy Mother Church, and to his Men and Friends, French, English, and Irish, greeting. Know ye, that I have given, and by this my present charter confirmed, to Gilbert de Nogent and his heirs, all Delvin, which the O'Finilans held in the time of the Irish, with all the appurtenances and towns which are contained within Delvin aforesaid (except the town of the Abbot of Foure, by name Torrochelach), for the service of five knights to be rendered within my land of Meath, to him and his heirs from me and my heirs, freely and quietly, and honourably and fully to be held, in wood and in plain, in meadows and pascuages <sup>7</sup>, in churches and chapels, in roads and ways, in waters and fisheries, in pools and mills and huntings, with all liberties and free customs which there I have or ought. These being witnesses, William Parvo, Rob. de Bigarr, Gilb. de Boscharr, Nich. Clerico, Phil. Clerico, Rog. Camerario, Ad. Clavigero, Rob. de Alto-Villari, Arm. de Bigarr, and others.*

Gilbert de Nogent was attributed 20,000 acres of land in Bracklyn, from the 800,000 acres of the county of Meath. With the title of Baron, and the allocation of land was associated a fee of five knights to be made available to the service of Hugh de Lacy. Although other followers of Hugh de Lacy were given more land, Gilbert was evidently one of the closer associates of the De Lacy family. Gilbert married Rosea de Lacy, thus sealing bonds which had existed between the two families since the Norman Conquest <sup>8</sup>. Gilbert is also called upon a witness to several deeds of Walter de Lacy, the son of Hugh, a sure sign of the close association of the two families.

Gilbert de Nogent becomes the first Baron of Delvin. At his death, his brother Richard (de Capella) becomes 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron, as Gilberts' son Adam is too young to assume the title.

Adam de Nogent is the elder son of Gilbert. The second son Hugh will die without issue.

Here, we have conflicting information. Gilbert de Nogent dies in 1202, and his brother Richard assumes the title. The death of Richard is not known, probably between

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<sup>6</sup> The carucate (from the Latin carruca - wheeled plough) was based on the area a plough team of eight oxen could till in a single annual season (120 acres today). Many of the medieval land measures were in fact defined on an area of land maintained by a certain number of oxen tilling the land, or even an area of land large enough to maintain a family for a complete year.

<sup>7</sup> No definition of this word appears available in English, although it is mentioned many times in old documents. The author will hazard a guess at "pastures"

<sup>8</sup> Delvin Castle (or Nugent Castle), now a ruin, was built in 1181 by Hugh for his brother-in-law.

1210 and 1220. Who becomes Baron (3rd) of Delvin. Some documents indicate Adam, Gilberts son, some indicate Richard le Tuite.

In all probability, Adam becomes 3rd Baron for a short time before his death (without issue - did he die young ?), and then the title passes through Richard de Nogent's daughter (name unknown) to Richard le Tuite<sup>9</sup>.

However, all documents agree that the Baronry of Delvin was lost to the De Nogent family, due to a lack of male issue<sup>10</sup>. The Baronry will be recovered in the same manner, nearly 120 years later, when the "Le Tuite"/FitzJohn" family has no male issue, and the surviving daughter of John FitzJohn will marry Sir William Nugent of Balrath. The Baronry of Delvin returns to the De Nogent family, after five generations of control by the FitzJohns.

It is useful, at this time to indicate that the French name of "De Nogent", is modernized to "Nugent" by Sir William Nugent in about 1410, although the exact date is unknown..

For the moment that the Nugent family (for that is their new name) have recovered the baronry of Delvin, they, so to speak, "come back into the news" !

Sir William Nugent is Sheriff of Meath in 1401 and 1402

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<sup>9</sup> Here, we have a name problem. The "le Tuite" family is known in Ireland at this time, with similar titles and land allocations to the de Nogent family, but some documents specify that the title of Baronry of Delvin fall into the hands of the "Johns" or "Jones", or the "Tuites", or the "FitzJohns". Probably, the name of the successive descendants of the family changed from "le Tuite" to "Fitz-John", through several generations.

<sup>10</sup> This has happened before with catastrophic results. At about the same time, in France, the entire line of the De Nogents comes to an abrupt halt in 1226, some time after the death of Thomas de Perche, at Lincoln, in 1217. Most decidedly, the good luck of the De Nogent family seems to be running out !