

Geoffrey I, Count of Anjou

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Geoffrey I of Anjou (c. 938/940 – July 21, 987), known as *Grisegonelle* ("Greymantle"), was count of Anjou from 960 to 987.^[a]

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Life

Geoffrey was the eldest son of Fulk II, Count of Anjou and his first wife Gerberga.^[1] He succeeded his father as Count of Anjou about 960.^[2] He married Adele of Meaux (934–982), daughter of Robert of Vermandois and Adelais de Vergy.^[1] On her mother's side she was a granddaughter of king Robert I of France and on her father's side a direct descendant of Charlemagne.^[2] Through this marriage the Angevins joined the highest ranks of western French nobility.^[2]


Geoffrey started by making his power-base the citadel of Angers strategically placing his *fideles* in key areas surrounding the city to protect his territories.^[3] The lands of the abbeys of Saint-Aubin and Saint-Serge in Angers provided the *beneficium* for his most faithful adherents.^[3] On this subject which became this family's theme, Geoffrey advised both his sons, Fulk and Maurice: "No house is weak that has many friends. Therefore I admonish you to hold dear those fideles who have been friends."^[4] Although one of the principal methods of Angevin expansion was by the creation of family connections Geoffrey exerted his control through various methods.^[5] His father had controlled Nantes through his second marriage to the widowed countess and Geoffrey continued this by making Count Guerech accept him as overlord.^[5] With an eye towards Maine, Geoffrey took advantage of the rift that developed between the Counts of Maine and the viscounts and Bishops of Le Mans.^[6] About 971 Geoffrey secured the see of Le Mans for his ally Bishop Seinfroy.^[7] In 973 Geoffrey had married his daughter Ermengarde-Gerberga to Conan I of Rennes^[8] but Conan began to oppose Geoffrey and in 982 the two met at the first battle of Conquereuil with Geoffrey defeating Conan.^[9]

Geoffrey had influence in Aquitaine by way of his sister Adelaide-Blanche's first marriage to the powerful baron Stephen, Count of Gevaudan and Forez who after his death the lands were ruled by Adelaide.^[10] His nephews Pons and Bertrand succeeded as counts there and his niece Adalmode married Adelbert, Count of Marche and Périgord. In 975 Geoffrey had his brother Guy appointed Count and Bishop of Le Puy.^[10] In 982 Geoffrey married his now widowed sister Adelaide-Blanche to the fifteen-year-old Louis V of France, the two being crowned King and Queen of Aquitaine.^[9] But the marriage to a woman thirty years his senior failed as did Geoffrey's plans to control Aquitaine through his young son-in-law.^[9] After the death of his first wife Adele, Geoffrey married secondly Adelaise de Châlon and for nearly a decade exerted control over the county of Châlons.^[5] Through the marriage of his son, Fulk III, to Elisabeth the heiress of Vendôme Geoffrey brought that county into the Angevin sphere of influence.^[11] Fortunately it was at this same time Geoffrey made his son Fulk Nerra his co-ruler since he died shortly thereafter while besieging the fortress of Marçon on 21 July 987.^[12]

Family

He married Adele of Meaux (934–982), daughter of Robert of Vermandois and Adelais de Vergy. Their children were:

- Ermengarde-Gerberga of Anjou (b. 956),^[2] married Conan I of Rennes.^[8] She secondly married William II of

Geoffrey Greymantle	
	
Anjou and surrounding territories.	
Spouse(s)	Adele of Meaux Adelaise de Chalon
Noble family	House of Ingelger
Father	Fulk II of Anjou
Mother	Gerberge
Born	c. 938/940
Died	21 July 987 Marçon

Angoulême.^[13]

- Fulk III of Anjou (970-1040), he succeeded his father as Count of Anjou.^[14]
- Geoffrey of Anjou (971-977), died young.^[15]

He married, secondly, to Adelaïse de Châlons^[16] and had one child:

- Maurice of Anjou, Count of Châlons.^[5]

Notes

- ^ Refer to Bernard S. Bachrach, "Fulk Nerra: Neo-Roman Consul, 987-1040" (California, 1993) 261 and 262 for a useful genealogy of the Angevin comital line.

References

- ^{a b} Detlev Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, Neue Folge, Band III Teilband 1 (Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, Marburg, Germany, 1984), Tafel 116
- ^{a b c d} Bernard S. Bachrach, *Fulk Nerra the Neo-Roman Consul, 987-1040* (University of California Press, 1993), p. 9
- ^{a b} *Medieval Transformations: Texts, Power, and Gifts in Context*, Ed. E. Cohen & M.B. de Jong (Brill, Leiden & Boston, 2001), p. 193
- ^ Bernard S. Bachrach, *Fulk Nerra the Neo-Roman Consul, 987-1040* (University of California Press, 1993), p. 82 & n. 95
- ^{a b c d} Bernard S. Bachrach, 'The Idea of the Angevin Empire', *Albion: A Quarterly Journal Concerned with British Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 4 (Winter,1978), p. 295
- ^ Steven Fanning, 'A Bishop and His World Before the Gregorian Reform: Hubert of Angers, 1006-1047', *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. 78, Part 1 (1978), p. 30
- ^ Steven Fanning, 'A Bishop and His World Before the Gregorian Reform: Hubert of Angers, 1006-1047', *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. 78, Part 1 (1978), p. 29
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- ^{a b c} Bernard S. Bachrach, *Fulk Nerra the Neo-Roman Consul, 987-1040* (University of California Press, 1993), p. 15
- ^{a b} Bernard S. Bachrach, 'The Idea of the Angevin Empire', *Albion: A Quarterly Journal Concerned with British Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 4 (Winter,1978), p. 296
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- ^ Detlev Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, Neue Folge, Band III Teilband 4 (Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, Marburg, Germany, 1989), Tafel 817
- ^ Bernard S. Bachrach, *Fulk Nerra the Neo-Roman Consul, 987-1040* (University of California Press, 1993), p. 11
- ^ Bernard S. Bachrach, *Fulk Nerra the Neo-Roman Consul, 987-1040* (University of California Press, 1993), pp. 11-12
- ^ Constance Brittain Bouchard, *Those of My Blood: Constructing Noble Families in Medieval Francia* (University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2001), p. 25

Additional references

- Mabile, Emile. *Introduction aux chroniques des comtes d'Anjou* (Paris) 1871.
- Medieval Lands Project on Geoffrey I, Count of Anjou (http://fmg.ac/Projects/MedLands/ANJOU,%20MAINE.htm#GeoffroyI_died987A)

Geoffrey I, Count of Anjou House of Ingelger Born: c. 938/940 Died: 21 July 987		
Preceded by Fulk II	Count of Anjou 960–987	Succeeded by Fulk III

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