

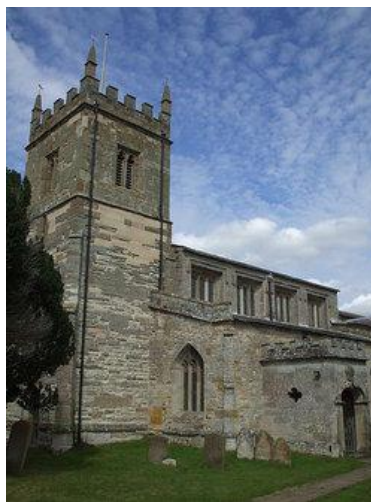
Sir Robert Throckmorton (1510-1581)



William Norwood, Dorothy Spann CENTER's eighth great grandfather and father of Richard Norwood appearing in the lower right in the tree for Captain Richard Spann, was the son of Henry Norwood and Catherine Thockmorton. Catherine Thockmorton was the daughter of Robert Thockmorton and Muriel Berkeley.

Sir Robert Thockmorton:

Birth: 1510
Alcester; Warwickshire, England
Death: Feb. 12, 1581
Alcester; Warwickshire, England



St Peter's Church, Coughton, Warwickshire, England where he is buried.

Sir Robert Throckmorton of Coughton Court, was a distinguished English Tudor courtier. Sir Robert was the eldest son and heir of Sir George Throckmorton (d.1552) by Katherine Vaux, daughter of Nicholas Vaux, 1st Baron Vaux of Harrowden (d.1523). He had many brothers, the most notable being, in descending seniority: Sir Kenelm, Sir Clement Throckmorton MP, Sir Nicholas Throckmorton(1515-1571), Thomas, Sir John Throckmorton(1524-1580), Anthony and George.

Robert Throckmorton may have trained at the Middle Temple, the inn attended by his father. At least three of his younger brothers and his own eldest son studied at Middle Temple, but as the heir to extensive estates he had little need to seek a career at court or in government. He was joined with his father in several stewardships from 1527 and was perhaps the servant of Robert Tyrwhitt, a distant relative by marriage of the Throckmortons, who in 1540 took an inventory of Cromwell's goods at Mortlake. He attended the reception of Anne of Cleves and with several of his brothers served in the French war of 1544. Three years later he was placed on the Warwickshire bench and in 1553 was appointed High Sheriff of Warwickshire. He was also elected as a knight of the shire (MP) for Warwickshire in 1553 and 1555. Three of his brothers also sat for Parliament, Nicholas as knight of the shire for Northamptonshire. Throckmorton's role in the succession crisis of 1553 is unknown, but his standing with Queen Mary is shown by her reputed answer to the news of Edward VI's death sent her by four of his brothers: 'If Robert had been there she durst have gaged her life and hazarded the hap'. In the autumn of 1553, Throckmorton was knighted and appointed constable of Warwick Castle. He continued to sit as MP for the shire until 1558, when he gave way to his eldest son, Thomas.

His Catholicism explains his disappearance from the Commons in the new reign, although the most Catholic of his brothers, Anthony Throckmorton, was to sit in the Parliament of 1563. Judged an 'adversary of true religion' in 1564, Throckmorton remained active in Warwickshire until his refusal to subscribe to the Act of Uniformity led to his removal from the commission of the peace. In 1577, the Bishop of Worcester, John Whitgift, listed Throckmorton as a Catholic and reckoned him to be worth 1,000 marks a year in lands and £1,000 in goods. Sir Robert Throckmorton continued the family in the Catholic tradition. He married his children into the leading Catholic families, and in these generations the increased persecution of the Catholic spawned many relatives who became involved in plots

against the throne. The sons of his daughters Anne and Muriel, were Robert Catesby and Francis Tresham, and a third daughter Mary was married to Edward Arden, who was also convicted of treason and executed for his part in a plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth in 1583.

Mary kept an excellent record of a woman persecuted for recusancy, documenting the fines and searches made at Coughton Court, that is still in the family archives. A nephew, Francis Throckmorton, was executed in 1584 for acting as a go-between for Mary, Queen of Scots and the Spanish Ambassador in an attempt to invade England and place Mary on the throne. A niece Elizabeth; also known as Bess, the daughter of Sir Nicholas, and lady-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth, also got into trouble by secretly marrying Sir Walter Raleigh. He died on 12 February 1581, six days after making a will in which he styled himself of Weston Underwood, Buckinghamshire but asked to be buried at Coughton, where an alabaster and marble tomb was accordingly erected to his memory: there is a portrait at Coughton Court. He named as executors his eldest son Thomas and his sons-in-law Sir John Goodwin and Ralph Shelton, and as overseers another son-in-law Sir Thomas Tresham and his 'loving friend' Edmund Plowden.

Sir Robert married twice. Firstly in about 1527 to Muriel Berkeley (d.1542), daughter of Sir Thomas Berkeley, 5th Baron Berkeley (1472-1533) by his first wife, Eleanor Constable (c. 1485 - 1527), daughter of Sir Marmaduke Constable. The issue of Robert and Muriel included: Catherine (c. 1532-12 Feb 1580), married Henry (Robert) Norwood circa 1547 and had issue. Thomas Throckmorton of Coughton (1533-13 Mar 1614), married c.1556 Mary Whorwood (c.1535-28 Apr 1607) and had issue five daughters and two sons including John Throckmorton Esq. (1580-1614/15), father of Robert Throckmorton, 1st Baronet(1599-1650). Elizabeth (born c.1535), married Sir John Goodwin. No issue. Anne (c. 1541-16 Dec 1603), married Sir Ralph Sheldon and had issue. Mary (born c.1543), married Sir Edward Arden of Park Hall (1542-1583) and had a daughter, Catherine, who married Edward, 1st Baronet Devereux of Castle Bromwich, son of Walter Devereux, 1st Viscount Hereford. Secondly in about 1542 to Elizabeth Hussey (c.1510-23 Jan 1554), widow and formerly 3rd wife of Walter Hungerford, 1st Baron Hungerford of Heytesbury (d.1540), by whom she had been notoriously ill-treated, daughter of John Hussey, 1st Baron Hussey of Sleaford (1465-1537) by his second wife, Lady Anne Grey (c.1490-aft. 1537).

The issue of Robert and Elizabeth comprised the following four daughters: Anne

(d. after 1605), married Sir William Catesby (1547-1598) on 9 Jun 1566 at Ashby St. Ledgers, Northamptonshire and had issue including Robert Catesby. Elizabeth, married Sir Anthony Tyringham and had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Robert, the 1st of Fisher baronets. Muriel (d.1615), married Sir Thomas Tresham and had issue. Temperance, married Sir Randal Brereton. No issue.

Berkeley Castle

Berkeley Castle was the home of some of Dorothy Spann CENTER's ancestors. Richard Norwood appearing in the lower right in the tree for Captain Richard Spann, was the son of Henry Norwood and Catherine Thockmorton. Catherine Thockmorton was the daughter of Robert Thockmorton and Muriel BERKELEY. The castle has remained within the Berkeley family since they reconstructed it in the 12th century, except for a period of royal ownership by the Tudors. It is traditionally believed to be the scene of the murder of King Edward II in 1327.

Berkeley Castle (historically sometimes spelt *Berkley Castle*) is a [castle](#) in the town of [Berkeley, Gloucestershire, UK](#). The castle's origins date back to the 11th century and it has been designated by [English Heritage](#) as a grade I [listed building](#).^[1]

Berkeley Construction



Shell keep and inner gatehouse, viewed from the outer bailey.

The first castle at Berkeley was a [motte-and-bailey](#), built around 1067 by [William FitzOsbern](#) shortly after the [Conquest](#).^[4] This was subsequently held by three generations of the first Berkeley family, all called Roger de Berkeley, and rebuilt by them in the first half of the 12th century.^[5] The last Roger de Berkeley was dispossessed in 1152 for withholding his allegiance from the [House of Plantagenet](#) during the conflict of [The Anarchy](#), and the [feudal barony](#) of Berkeley was then

granted to [Robert Fitzharding](#), a wealthy [burgess](#) of [Bristol](#) and supporter of the Plantagenets. He was the founder of the Berkeley family which still holds the castle.^{[4][6][7][8]}


In 1153-54, Fitzharding received a royal [charter](#) from [King Henry II](#) giving him permission to rebuild the castle,^[8] with the aim of defending the Bristol - [Gloucester](#) Road, the [Severn](#) estuary, and the [Welsh](#) border.^[citation needed]

Fitzharding built the circular [shell keep](#) during 1153-56, probably on the site of the former motte. The building of the [curtain wall](#) followed, probably during 1160-90 by Robert and then by his son Maurice.^{[4][8]}

Much of the rest of the castle is 14th century and was built for [Thomas de Berkeley, 3rd Baron Berkeley](#): Thorpe's Tower, to the north of the keep, the inner [gatehouse](#) to its southwest, and other buildings of the inner [bailey](#).^[4]

Murder of Edward II



 Covered walkway leading to Edward II's supposed cell within the castle
The castle was ransacked in 1326 by the forces of [Hugh Despenser](#), the favourite of King Edward II. In 1327, Edward was deposed by the [Queen](#) and her ally [Roger Mortimer](#), and they made Thomas de Berkeley and his brother-in-law John Maltravers his joint custodians. They brought Edward to Berkeley Castle, and held him there for 5 months from April to September. During that time a band of Edward's supporters attacked, entered the castle and rescued him, only for him to be recaptured soon afterwards. It is possible that his captors then moved him around between several castles to make further rescue more difficult, before

returning him to Berkeley Castle in September.^[9] Some commentators have claimed that Edwards' escape was actually successful, and that someone else was later murdered in his place.^{[3][10]}

Edward was reputedly murdered there on September 21, 1327 by unknown means, although popular stories of a red hot poker or suffocation persist.^[3] The cell where he is supposed to have been imprisoned and murdered can still be seen, along with the adjacent 11 m (36 ft) deep dungeon,^[1] which supposedly echoes the events of the murder every year on September 21.^[11]

The account given to [Parliament](#) at the time was simply that Edward had met with a fatal accident. The body was embalmed and remained lying in state at Berkeley for a month, in the Chapel of St John within the castle keep, before Thomas de Berkeley escorted it to [Gloucester Abbey](#) for burial.^{[4][12]} Thomas was later charged with being an accessory to the murder, but his defence was that it was carried out by the agents of Roger Mortimer while he was away from the castle, and in 1337 he was cleared of all charges.^[13]

Later history



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Berkeley Castle in 1712

In the 14th century, the Great Hall was given a new roof and it is here the last [court jester](#) in England, Dickie Pearce, died after falling from the [Minstrels' gallery](#). His tomb is in St Mary's churchyard which stands beside the castle. Adjoining the Great Hall is one of two of the original chapels, that includes painted wooden [vaulted](#) ceilings and a [biblical](#) passage (from the [Book of Revelation](#)), written in [Norman French](#). This room also contains an illustrated [vellum](#) book of

[plainsong](#) that was used in [Catholic](#) rites, before the family converted to [Protestantism](#) in the 16th century.

During the [English Civil War](#), the castle still held sufficient significance for it to be captured in 1645 by Colonel [Thomas Rainsborough](#), for the [Parliamentarian](#) side and after a siege which saw cannon being fired at point blank range from the adjacent church roof of Saint Mary the Virgin, the Royal garrison surrendered. As was usual, the walls were left breached after this siege but the Berkeley family were allowed to retain ownership on condition that they never repaired the damage to the Keep and Outer Bailey, still enforced today by the original [Act of Parliament](#) drawn up at the time; according to the [Pevsner Architectural Guides](#),^[14]^[full citation needed] the breach is partially filled by a subsequent 'modern' rebuild, but this only amounts to a low garden wall, to stop people falling 28' from the Keep Garden, the original Castle's "motte".

In the 20th century, the [8th Earl Randall](#) repaired and remodelled parts of the castle and added a new porch in the same [Gothic](#) style as the rest of the building. One change included an [Art Nouveau](#) take on a [medieval](#) bedroom.

The castle is surrounded by terraced [Elizabethan](#) gardens, including [Elizabeth I](#)'s [bowling green](#) and a [pine](#) that is reputed to have been grown from a cutting taken from a tree at the [Battle of Culloden](#) in 1746.

Modern times



The courtyard in the 1840s

The castle is the oldest continuously occupied castle in [England](#) after the royal fortresses of the [Tower of London](#) and [Windsor Castle](#), and the oldest to be continuously owned and occupied by the same family. It contains an antique four-poster bed that has been identified as the piece of furniture that has remained in continuous use by the same family the longest in the UK.^[15] The Berkeley family divide their time between the Castle and their other home, [Spetchley Park](#), just

outside [Worcester](#), which has been in the family's ownership since 1606.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

With most areas open to the public since 1997, the private apartments occupy about 15% of the building and the rest is managed by the Berkeley Castle Charitable Trust.^{[[citation needed](#)]} A restoration appeal was launched in 2006 to raise £5.5 million needed to renovate and restore the Norman building.^[16]

Two ships of the [Royal Navy](#) have been named [Berkeley Castle](#) after the castle,^[17] as has a [Great Western locomotive](#).^[18]

The castle was used for many scenes for the hit BBC children's television series [The Ghost Hunter](#)^{[[citation needed](#)]} and the first televised version of [The Other Boleyn Girl](#).^[19]