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ELEANOR DOUGHTY

# Heirs. & Graces



A History of the Modern  
British Aristocracy

# Heirs and Graces

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*In memory of Peter and Obby Fitzwilliam,  
and to their daughter Lady Juliet Tadgell*

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*'Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is  
unhappy in its own way'*

—Leo Tolstoy

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## *Dramatis Personae*

The peerage bristles with numbered dukes, marquesses and earls, many of whom appear to or do have similar names. To help the reader negotiate the various generations of those families whose names appear most frequently in the text, a biographical list of dynasties is included below.

### **Ailesbury, Marquesses of**

Michael Sydney Cedric Brudenell-Bruce, 8th Marquess (1926–2024), eldest son of the 7th Marquess. He was thrice married and had five children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. The 30th Hereditary Warden of Savernake Forest, he sold the family's ancient ivory horn, traditionally blown when the sovereign passed through the forest, in 1975. He was a keen betting man.

David Michael James Brudenell-Bruce, 9th Marquess (1952–), only son of the 8th Marquess. He has married twice and has three children, the eldest of whom, Thomas, Earl of Cardigan, will succeed him in the marquessate. In 1985, he was a witness to the Battle of the Beanfield, when local police stopped New Age travellers setting up that year's Stonehenge Free Festival.

### **Ailsa, Marquesses of**

Archibald Angus *Charles* Kennedy, 8th Marquess (1956–2015), eldest son of the 7th Marquess. He married and had two daughters, and was succeeded by his younger brother. In 2011, he sold Ailsa Craig, the 240-acre island in the Firth of Clyde owned by the Kennedys since 1548.

David Thomas Kennedy, 9th Marquess (1958–), younger brother of the 8th Marquess. He married Anne Kelly and has two children, the second of

whom, Archie, Earl of Cassillis, will succeed him in the marquessate. In 2015 he bought back Ailsa Craig.

**Anglesey, Marquesses of**

*(Surname pronounced 'Paj-it')*

Henry Cyril 'Topsy' Paget, 5th Marquess (1875–1905), only son of the 4th Marquess. He married his cousin Lilian Chetwynd but the marriage was childless and he was therefore succeeded by another cousin. He was dubbed 'the dancing marquess' owing to his butterfly-style dancing. He was declared bankrupt in 1904.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles 'Charley' Henry Alexander Paget, GCVO, DL, 6th Marquess (1885–1947), eldest son of Lord Alexander Paget (1839–1896) and first cousin of the 5th Marquess. He married Lady Marjorie Manners, with whom he had six children, the fifth of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. In 1936, he commissioned the artist Rex Whistler to paint *Capriccio*, the artist's largest mural, at his Anglesey home, Plas Newydd.

Major George Charles *Henry* Victor Paget, DL, 7th Marquess (1922–2013), only son of the 6th Marquess. He married Shirley Morgan, the daughter of two novelists, and had five children, the second of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He wrote eight volumes on the history of the British cavalry, 1816–1919, and gave Plas Newydd to the National Trust in 1976.

Charles *Alexander* Vaughan Paget, 8th Marquess (1950–), eldest son of the 7th Marquess. He has married twice and has two children, the elder of whom, Ben, Earl of Uxbridge, will succeed him in the marquessate. He carried the standard of Wales at Charles III's coronation and, as Alex Uxbridge, works as an artist.

**Antrim, Earls of**

Alexander Randal Mark McDonnell, 9th Earl (1935–2021), eldest son of the 8th Earl. He married twice and had four children, the third of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was keeper of conservation at the Tate Gallery for twenty years, and the first to identify Bankside Power Station as a possible site for Tate Modern.

Randal Alexander McDonnell, 10th Earl (1967–), only son of the 9th Earl. He married Aurora Gunn, with whom he has two children; the elder, Alexander, Viscount Dunluce, will succeed him. He goes by 'Randal Dunluce' in civilian life, and commutes to his ancestral home, Glenarm Castle, County Antrim, at the weekends.

**Argyll, Dukes of**

Captain Ian Douglas Campbell, 11th Duke (1903–1973), only son of Douglas Campbell (1877–1926) and first cousin once removed of the 10th Duke. He married four times and had three children, the second of whom succeeded him as duke. He loved bird-watching and gardening.

Ian Campbell, DL, 12th Duke (1937–2001), elder son of the 11th Duke. He married Iona Colquhoun, the daughter of a Scottish baronet, with whom he had two children, the first succeeding him in the dukedom. With his wife he rebuilt his ancestral home, Inveraray Castle, after a fire there in 1975.

Torquhil Ian Campbell, 13th Duke (1968–), only son of the 12th Duke. He married Eleanor Cadbury, of the famed chocolate family, with whom he has three children. The eldest, Archie, Marquess of Lorne, will succeed him as duke. He once served as captain of Scotland's national elephant polo team.

**Bath, Marquesses of**

*(Surname pronounced 'Thin')*

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Henry Thynne, KG, CB, 5th Marquess (1862–1946), eldest son of the 4th Marquess. He married Violet Mordaunt, whose parentage was disputed, and had five children. His eldest son was killed in the First World War and he was succeeded in the marquessate by his second son. He was chairman of Wiltshire County Council for forty years, and spent the Second World War at his ancestral home, Longleat, with his Great Dane, Stephen, who followed him around like a witch's familiar.

Major Henry Frederick Thynne, 6th Marquess (1905–1992), only surviving son of the 5th Marquess. He was twice married, first to the writer Daphne Fielding (née Vivian), and had six surviving children, the second of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He opened Longleat to the public in 1949, and its safari park in 1966. In later life he collected paintings by Adolf Hitler.

Alexander George Thynn, 7th Marquess (1932–2020), eldest son of the 6th Marquess. He married Hungarian-born Anna Gyarmathy, with whom he had two children; the second succeeded him in the marquessate. He had a number of mistresses, known to him as 'wifelets', some of whom lived on the Longleat estate. He adopted an alternative spelling of the family name in 1976, and decorated rooms at Longleat with erotic scenes from the Kama Sutra.

Ceawlin Henry Laszlo Thynn, 8th Marquess (1974–), only son of the 7th Marquess. He married Emma McQuiston, with whom he has two sons. The elder son, John, Viscount Weymouth, will succeed him. His Christian name derives from that of an ancient king of Wessex. He has been a donor to the Liberal Democrats.

**Beauchamp, Earls**

(*Title pronounced ‘Beecham’; surname pronounced ‘Liggon’*)

William Lygon, KG, KCMG, CB, 7th Earl (1872–1938), eldest son of the 6th Earl. He married Lady Lettice Grosvenor and had seven children, the eldest of whom succeeded him. His family is generally considered to be the model for the Flyte family in Evelyn Waugh’s magnum opus *Brideshead Revisited* (1945).

William Lygon, DL, 8th Earl (1903–1979), eldest son of the 7th Earl. He married Else ‘Mona’ Schiwe, a Dane. The marriage produced no children, and since both of his brothers had predeceased him, the earldom became extinct after his death. He was a very large man.

**Beaufort, Dukes of**

Henry ‘Master’ Hugh Arthur FitzRoy Somerset, KG, GCVO, 10th Duke (1900–1984), only son of the 9th Duke. He married Lady Mary Cambridge but the marriage was childless and he was therefore succeeded by his first cousin twice removed. He was known from the age of eleven as ‘Master’ after his father gave him a pack of harriers, of which he became master.

David Robert Somerset, 11th Duke (1928–2017), eldest surviving son of Captain Henry Somerset (1898–1965) and first cousin twice removed of the 10th Duke. He was twice married, first to Lady Caroline Thynne, with whom he had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him as duke. Just as his predecessor had loved the company of women, he was described as ‘the great woman slayer’ by his friend Woodrow Wyatt.

Henry ‘Bunter’ John FitzRoy Somerset, 12th Duke (1952–), eldest son of the 11th Duke. He has been twice married, first to Tracy Ward, with whom he has three children. The eldest, Bobby, Marquess of Worcester, will succeed him as duke. He was the singer and songwriter of the rock group The Listening Device.

**Bedford, Dukes of**

Colonel Herbrand Arthur Russell, KG, KBE, DL, 11th Duke (1858–1940), younger brother of the 10th Duke. Married Mary Du Caurroy Tribe,

the daughter of an archdeacon of Lahore, with whom he had a son, who succeeded him in the dukedom. He was president of the Zoological Society of London for thirty-seven years, and responsible for saving Père David's deer from extinction: he kept a herd of them at his ancestral home of Woburn Abbey.

Hastings William Sackville Russell, 12th Duke (1888–1953), only son of the 11th Duke. Married Louisa Whitwell, the daughter of a medievalist, and had three children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the dukedom. He was involved in far-right politics in the 1930s, and despite being a competent shot, died from injuries sustained from a shotgun.

John *Ian* Robert Russell, 13th Duke (1917–2002), eldest son of the 12th Duke. He was thrice married and had three children; his eldest son succeeded him as duke for only seven and a half months. He opened Woburn Abbey to the public in 1955, and established its safari park in 1970, following a short-lived career as a fruit farmer in South Africa.

Henry *Robin* Ian Russell, DL, 14th Duke (1940–2003), eldest son of the 13th Duke. He married Henrietta Tiarks, the daughter of a merchant banker, and had three sons, the eldest of whom succeeded him. He met his wife when they were children. She remembered asking him about his ambitions and receiving the reply: 'The only thing I want to be is a very good duke.'

Andrew Ian Henry Russell, 15th Duke (1962–), eldest son of the 14th Duke. He married Louisa Crammond and has two children, the younger of whom, Henry, Marquess of Tavistock, will succeed him in the dukedom. He lives at Woburn with his family, and has said that if he could save only one object from the house, it would be the Armada Portrait of Elizabeth I.

### **Bradford, Earls of**

Lieutenant-Colonel Orlando 'Laddo' Bridgeman, DL, 5th Earl (1873–1957), eldest son of the 4th Earl. He married the Hon. Margaret 'Daisy' Bruce and had four children who survived infancy. The second of these succeeded him in the earldom. He fought in both the Second Boer War and the First World War, and also served as a government whip in the House of Lords.

Captain Gerald Michael Orlando Bridgeman, DL, 6th Earl (1911–1981), only son of the 5th Earl. He married the linguist Mary Montgomery, with whom he had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He served with the Shropshire Yeomanry during the Second

World War, and was said to have been written up for a Military Cross after Monte Cassino but declined it.

Richard Thomas Orlando Bridgeman, 7th Earl (1947–), eldest son of the 6th Earl. He has been married twice and has four children, the eldest of whom, Alexander, Viscount Newport, will succeed him in the earldom. He can count three dukes as his second cousins.

**Bristol, Marquesses of**

(Surname pronounced 'Harvy')

Rear-Admiral Frederick William Fane Hervey, MVO, 4th Marquess (1863–1951), eldest surviving son of Lord Augustus Hervey (1837–1875) and nephew of the 3rd Marquess. He married the heiress Dora Wythes, with whom he had two daughters; he was succeeded in the marquessate by his younger brother. He was considered peculiar by one of his grandsons who suggested that this was because he lived in relative isolation – in the middle of a park, at Ickworth, which is nine miles in circumference.

Herbert Arthur Robert Hervey, 5th Marquess (1870–1960), younger brother of the 4th Marquess. He was twice married, first to Lady Jean Cochrane, with whom he had a son who succeeded him in the marquessate. He was known in the family as 'Poor Old Herbert' or 'P.O.H.'. He served with the consular service.

Victor Frederick Cochrane Hervey, 6th Marquess (1915–1985), only son of the 5th Marquess. He was thrice married, on the second occasion to Lady Juliet Fitzwilliam; in total, he had five children who survived to adulthood, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He was a fantasist and a criminal, and in later life became a tax exile in Monaco.

Frederick William *John* Augustus Hervey, 7th Marquess (1954–1999), eldest son of the 6th Marquess. He married Francesca Fisher but their union was childless, and he was succeeded in the marquessate by his younger half-brother. He was a drug addict and died penniless, having spent his fortune.

Frederick William Augustus Hervey, 8th Marquess (1979–), younger half-brother of the 7th Marquess. He married the American art consultant Meredith Dunn with whom he has two children; the younger, Frederick, Earl Jermyn, will succeed him in the marquessate. He works in property management and previously managed a pan-Baltic property fund in Estonia.

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**Buccleuch and Queensberry, Dukes of**

*(Title pronounced ‘Buckloo and Queensberry’)*

Lieutenant John Charles Montagu Douglas Scott RN, KT, GCVO, 7th Duke (1864–1935), eldest surviving son of the 6th Duke. He married Lady Margaret ‘Molly’ Bridgeman and had eight children, the second of whom succeeded him as duke. He despised pretension, though perhaps not comfort. Asked to open an event in Edinburgh, he instructed his chauffeur to drop him off from his Rolls-Royce at a tram stop, so that he could be seen to arrive by public transport.

Captain Walter John Montagu Douglas Scott, KT, GCVO, 8th Duke (1894–1973), eldest son of the 7th Duke. He married Mary ‘Mollie’ Lascelles, and had three children, the second of whom succeeded him as duke. His experiences with the Grenadier Guards during the First World War caused him to dread a further war with Germany to the extent that he became an advocate of appeasement in the years leading up to the Second World War.

Lieutenant-Commander Walter Francis John ‘Johnny’ Montagu Douglas Scott, 9th Duke (1923–2007), only son of the 8th Duke. He married the model Jane McNeill, and had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him as duke. He was paralysed from the chest down in a hunting accident in 1971.

Richard Walter John Montagu Douglas Scott, 10th Duke (1954–), eldest son of the 9th Duke. He married Lady Elizabeth ‘Bizza’ Kerr and has four children, the eldest of whom, Walter, Earl of Dalkeith, will succeed him. In 2023 he was made Chancellor of the Order of the Thistle, and a week after his wife’s death carried the Sceptre with Cross at Charles III’s coronation.

**Caledon, Earls of**

*(Title pronounced ‘Cal-le-don’, as in ‘the Caledonian Ball’)*

Major Erik James Desmond Alexander, 5th Earl (1885–1968), eldest son of the 4th Earl. He was dominated by his imperious mother, Lady Elizabeth Graham-Toler, and never married. His nephew succeeded him in the earldom. His first name, like those given to his three brothers, derives from his mother’s predilection for all things Scandinavian. He was fined multiple times for reckless driving.

Major Denis James Alexander, DL, 6th Earl (1920–1980), only son of Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Herbrand Alexander (1888–1965) and nephew of the 5th Earl. He was thrice married and had three children,

the second of whom succeeded him in the earldom. After the Second World War, during which he served with the Irish Guards, he worked for BP as an engineer, before inheriting his uncle's estate in the borderlands of County Tyrone.

Nicholas James Alexander, KCVO, 7th Earl (1955–), only son of the 6th Earl. Thrice married, he has two children, the elder of whom, Frederick, Viscount Alexander, will succeed him in the earldom. He has served as Lord Lieutenant of County Armagh since 1989.

### **Carlisle, Earls of**

George James Howard, 9th Earl (1843–1911), only son of the Hon. Charles Howard (1814–1879) and nephew of the 8th Earl. He married the Hon. Rosalind Stanley, a follower of the Temperance Movement, and had ten children who survived infancy. He was a painter, a member of the Cambridge Apostles and the last Earl of Carlisle to own Castle Howard.

Captain Charles 'Charley' James Stanley Howard, DL, 10th Earl (1867–1912), eldest son of the 9th Earl. He married Rhoda L'Estrange, the daughter of an army officer, and had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him. He was ill for a long period at the end of his life and predeceased his mother, setting in motion great changes in the settlement of the family estates.

Lieutenant-Commander George Josslyn L'Estrange Howard, 11th Earl (1895–1963), only son of the 10th Earl. He was married twice, first to Bridget 'Biddy' Hore-Ruthven, later 11th Lady Ruthven of Freeland, and had three children, the second of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He did not inherit his ancestral home of Castle Howard as might have been expected.

Charles 'Charlie' James Ruthven Howard, MC, DL, 12th Earl (1923–1994), only son of the 11th Earl. He married the Hon. Ela Beaumont and had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He served with the Rifle Brigade during the Second World War and was badly injured in 1944, writing home to his father: 'Had slight accident with mine. Lost my leg. Left arm completely paralysed, but I think it will be OK so don't worry.' He later became an expert on trees and wildfowl.

Major George William Beaumont Howard, 13th Earl (1949–), eldest son of the 12th Earl. He is unmarried. He served for twenty years in the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, and in 2011 stood as a Liberal Democrat candidate in elections to the House of Lords. His title will probably pass to his brother, the Hon. Philip Howard (1962–).

### Carrington, Barons

Major Peter Alexander Rupert Carington, KG, GCMG, CH, MC, 6th Baron (1919–2018), only son of the 5th Baron. He married Iona McClean and had three children, the youngest of whom succeeded him in the barony. Having inherited his title aged nineteen, during the Second World War, he served as an active peer in the House of Lords until his death in 2018, aged ninety-nine. With his wife he painstakingly restored the house and gardens on the family's Buckinghamshire estate.

Rupert Francis John Carington, DL, 7th Baron (1948–), only son of the 6th Baron. He married Daniela Diotallevi and has three children; his only son, the Hon. Robert Carington, will succeed him in the barony. A merchant banker, in 2022 he became Lord Great Chamberlain of England.

### Castle Stewart, Earls

Major Arthur Stuart, MC, 7th Earl (1889–1961), third son of the 6th Earl, whom he succeeded after his two brothers were killed in the First World War. He married Eleanor Guggenheim, daughter of the art collector Solomon Guggenheim, and had four sons, two of whom were killed in the Second World War. He was succeeded by his third son, Patrick. He worked briefly as a schoolmaster and took his own life in 1961.

Arthur *Patrick* Avondale Stuart, 8th Earl (1928–2023), third son of the 7th Earl. Twice married, he had two children, the elder of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was a passionate forester and planted many trees on his Northern Irish estate, which was bombed by the IRA in 1972.

Andrew Richard Charles Stuart, 9th Earl (1953–), only son of the 8th Earl. Twice married, he has a daughter. He lives in Somerset and enjoys bell-ringing, cycling and sailing. His heir is his first cousin Thomas Stuart.

### Cawdor, Earls

Lieutenant-Colonel John 'Jack' Duncan Vaughan Campbell, 5th Earl (1900–1970), eldest son of the 4th Earl. He married Wilma Vickers, the daughter of a rich industrialist, and had three children, the second of whom succeeded him in the earldom. His father contracted syphilis in Japan and spent his last years in a sanatorium. Perhaps as a result of this, Jack found it easiest to communicate with his own family by letter.

Hugh John Vaughan Campbell, 6th Earl (1932–1993), eldest son of the 5th Earl. He married twice and had five children, the third of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was an aficionado of alcohol and fast cars.

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Colin Robert Vaughan Campbell, DL, 7th Earl Cawdor (1962–), elder son of the 6th Earl. He married the sometime fashion editor Lady Isabella Stanhope and has four children, the second of whom, James, Viscount Emlyn, will succeed him in the earldom. He trained as an architect.

### Chichester, Earls of

Captain John Buxton Pelham, 8th Earl (1912–1944), younger brother of the 7th Earl, who bore the title for only eight days. He married Ursula von Pannwitz, the daughter of a German lawyer and art collector, whose mother was a friend of the former German kaiser, Wilhelm II. They had two children, but he lived to see the birth of only one. He was killed in a car accident on the A1 during the Second World War.

John Nicholas Pelham, 9th Earl (1944–), only son of the 8th Earl, born posthumously. He married June Wells, with whom he has a daughter. While studying music in Austria, he lodged with Hermann Göring's sister, Olga Rigele, though he didn't realise that at the time. His heir is his second cousin once removed, Duncan Pelham.

### Crathorne, Barons

Major Thomas Lionel Dugdale, 1st Baron (1897–1977), son of Captain James Lionel Dugdale (1862–1941), created Baron Crathorne in 1959. He married Nancy Tennant, with whom he had two sons; the elder succeeded him in the barony. He served with the Scots Greys in the First World War and the Yorkshire Hussars during the Second World War, and was for thirty years a Conservative MP.

Charles *James* Dugdale KCVO, 2nd Baron (1939–), elder son of the 1st Baron. He married Sylvia Montgomery, with whom he had three children, the second of whom, the Hon. Thomas Dugdale, will succeed him in the barony. He has been a working hereditary peer since he succeeded his father in 1977 and remained an active member after the expulsion of the bulk of hereditary peers in 1999.

### Derby, Earls of

Edward 'Eddy' George Villiers Stanley, KG, GCB, GCVO, 17th Earl (1865–1948), eldest son of the 16th Earl. He married Lady Alice Montagu and had three children, two of whom predeceased him; he was succeeded by his grandson. He was active in British politics for over fifty years, serving as ambassador to France and secretary of state for war, and was known as the king of Lancashire.

Major Edward *John* Stanley, MC, 18th Earl (1918–1994), eldest son of Captain Edward Stanley, Lord Stanley, MC (1894–1938) and grandson of the 17th Earl. He married Lady Isobel Milles-Lade, but the marriage produced no children and he was therefore succeeded by his nephew. He served with the Grenadier Guards during the Second World War, and enjoyed gambling – though only at cards, and not on the racehorses that he dearly loved.

Edward ‘Teddy’ Richard William Stanley, DL, 19th Earl (1962–), son of Hugh Stanley (1926–1971) and nephew of the 18th Earl. He married the Hon. Caroline ‘Cazzy’ Neville and has three children, the second of whom, Edward, Lord Stanley, will succeed him in the earldom. A former merchant banker, he runs the Knowsley Hall estate on Merseyside and is active on the racing scene; his mare Ouija Board won the Oaks in 2004.

### Devon, Earls of

Captain Charles *Christopher* Courtenay, 17th Earl (1916–1998), only surviving son of the 16th Earl. He married Venetia, Countess of Cottenham, and had two children, the younger of whom succeeded him in the earldom. Between 1927 and 1935, both of his uncles and his father died, each having succeeded to the earldom. He therefore inherited Powderham Castle with triple death duties.

Hugh Rupert Courtenay, DL, 18th Earl (1942–2015), only son of the 17th Earl. He married Diana Watherston, whom he met at a Pony Club camp in the Scottish Borders, and had four children, the youngest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was born in the state bed at Powderham shortly after Exeter was bombed during the Luftwaffe’s Baedeker raids, while his father was serving in North Africa.

Charles Peregrine Courtenay, 19th Earl (1975–), only son of the 18th Earl. He married the actor Allison-Joy ‘AJ’ Langer, with whom he has two children, the second of whom, Jack, Lord Courtenay, will succeed him in the earldom. In 2018 he was elected as a crossbench member of the House of Lords. He works as a barrister specialising in intellectual property.

### Devonshire, Dukes of

Major Victor Christian William Cavendish, KG, GCMG, GCVO, 9th Duke (1868–1938), eldest son of Lord Edward Cavendish (1838–1891) and nephew of the 8th Duke. He married Lady Evelyn Petty-Fitzmaurice

and had seven children, the eldest of whom succeeded him as duke. As well as a landowner, he was an active politician, serving as secretary of state for the colonies, and as Governor General of Canada. He was appointed a Knight of the Garter in 1916.

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward ‘Eddy’ William Spencer Cavendish, KG, MBE, 10th Duke (1895–1950), eldest son of the 9th Duke. He married Lady Mary ‘Moucher’ Gascoyne-Cecil and had four children who survived infancy. His second son succeeded him as duke after his elder brother was killed in the Second World War. He was an active freemason and at the time of his death, from a heart attack, grand master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Major Andrew Robert Buxton Cavendish, KG, MC, 11th Duke (1920–2004), only surviving son of the 10th Duke. He married the Hon. Deborah ‘Debo’ Freeman-Mitford, with whom he had three surviving children; the second of these succeeded him as duke. With his wife he transformed his ancestral home of Chatsworth House into one of the country’s most successful visitor attractions, having conquered his alcoholism in the 1980s.

Peregrine ‘Stoker’ Andrew Morny Cavendish, KCVO, CBE, DL, 12th Duke (1944–), only surviving son of the 11th Duke. He married Amanda Heywood-Lonsdale, the daughter of a naval officer, and has three children, the eldest of whom, William, Earl of Burlington, will succeed him as duke. He has been deputy chairman of Sotheby’s since 1996, and is the owner of Heywood Hill, the bookshop his aunt Nancy Mitford worked at during the Second World War.

### **Donoughmore, Earls of**

*(Title pronounced ‘Donomore’)*

Colonel John ‘Ordy’ Michael Henry Hely Hutchinson, 7th Earl (1902–1981), eldest son of the 6th Earl. He married Jean Hotham and they had three children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. His younger son, the Hon. Mark Hely Hutchinson, was chief executive of the Bank of Ireland. With his wife, he was kidnapped from his home, Knocklofty House, County Tipperary, and held by an IRA unit in 1974.

Richard *Michael* ‘Mick’ John Hely Hutchinson, 8th Earl (1927–2025), eldest son of the 7th Earl. Twice married, he had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He studied medicine at Oxford University and served in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

John Michael James Hely Hutchinson, 9th Earl (1952–), eldest son of the 8th Earl. He married Marie-Claire van den Driessche and has three children, the second of whom, Richard, Viscount Suirdale, will succeed him in the earldom.

### **Downe, Viscounts**

Colonel Richard Dawnay, OBE, DL, 10th Viscount (1903–1965), eldest son of the 9th Viscount. He married Margaret Bahnsen, whom he met in the United States while working as a banker, and had two sons, the elder of whom succeeded him in the viscountcy. He was Page of Honour to George V 1917–1919, and with his wife kept a pair of brown bear cubs, Bruin and Teddy.

John Christian George Dawnay, DL, 11th Viscount (1935–2002), elder son of the 10th Viscount. He married Diana Sconce, with whom he had a son and daughter; the former succeeded him in the viscountcy. A shy man, he ran a private laboratory at Wykeham Abbey near Scarborough. He collected Aston Martin cars, the first of which he bought as an undergraduate.

Richard Henry Dawnay, 12th Viscount (1967–), only son of the 11th Viscount. He is unmarried and divides his time between Wykeham and London. He studied chemistry at Durham University rather than learning the ropes of estate management as many of his peers have done, and afterwards worked for HSBC for twenty years. Despite his father's one-time extensive car collection, he does not drive. The heir to the title is his first cousin, Tom Dawnay.

### **Durham, Earls of**

Antony 'Tony' Claud Frederick Lambton, 6th Earl but disclaimed in 1970 (1922–2006), eldest surviving son of the 5th Earl. He married Belinda 'Bindy' Blew-Jones and had six children; his only son succeeded him in the earldom, and did not disclaim it. He often wore his trademark round, dark glasses and was involved in a sex scandal in 1973 after which he left parliament, having served as a Conservative MP for twenty-two years.

Edward 'Ned' Richard Lambton, 7th Earl (1961–), only son of the 6th Earl, who disclaimed his title. He is thrice married and has five children. His eldest son Frederick, Viscount Lambton, will succeed him in the title. One of his godparents was former prime minister Sir Anthony Eden. With his third wife Marina Hanbury, he divides his time between London and Cetinale, the Italian villa his father bought in 1978.

**Erroll, Earls of**

Captain Josslyn Victor Hay, 22nd Earl (1901–1941), eldest son of the 21st Earl. He was twice married, firstly to the much-married Lady Idina Sackville, the inspiration for ‘The Bolter’ in Nancy Mitford’s 1945 novel *The Pursuit of Love*. They had a daughter, Diana, who succeeded him in the title. He moved to Kenya in 1924, became a member of the ‘Happy Valley Set’, and was murdered. Sir Henry ‘Jock’ Delves Broughton, 11th Baronet, was accused of killing him, tried and ultimately acquitted. He took his own life a year later.

Diana Denyse Hay, 23rd Countess (1926–1978), only child of the 22nd Earl. She married Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk, Chief of Clan Moncreiffe, and had three children, the eldest of whom succeeded her. After her parents’ divorce she was raised in England by her Sackville relations. She took her seat in the House of Lords following 1963 legislation that allowed female hereditary peers to do so for the first time.

Merlin Sereld Victor Gilbert Hay, 24th Earl (1948–), eldest son of the 23rd Countess. He married Isabelle Hohler, who was born in Brussels, the daughter of a banker, and has four children, the eldest of whom, Harry, Lord Hay, will succeed him in the earldom. He is a member of the Royal Company of Archers, the monarch’s bodyguard in Scotland, and has worked as a computer consultant.

**Exeter, Marquesses of**

*(Surname pronounced ‘Cissel’)*

Colonel William Thomas Brownlow Cecil, KG, CMG, 5th Marquess (1876–1956), only son of the 4th Marquess. He married the Hon. Myra Orde-Powlett and had four children: both of his sons ultimately became successive Marquesses of Exeter. He lived at his ancestral home, Burghley House, Lincolnshire, for his whole life, and was appointed a Knight of the Garter in 1937.

Lieutenant-Colonel David George Brownlow Cecil, KCMG, DL, 6th Marquess (1905–1981), eldest son of the 5th Marquess. He was twice married: first to Lady Mary Montagu Douglas Scott, with whom he had three surviving children, and then to Diana Henderson, with whom he had a fourth daughter. He won the gold medal in the 400-metre hurdles at the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam, and went on to become chairman of the British Olympic Association. His brother Lord Martin Cecil succeeded him in the marquessate, and he established a charitable trust to look after Burghley House.

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William *Martin* Alleyne Cecil, 7th Marquess (1909–1988), younger brother of the 6th Marquess. Twice married, he had two surviving children, the elder of whom succeeded him as marquess. He moved to Canada aged twenty-one to live and work on the ranch in British Columbia that his father had bought. In later life he became head of the intentional community the Emissaries of Divine Light.

William *Michael* Anthony Cecil, 8th Marquess (1935–), only son of the 7th Marquess. Twice married, he has two children, the elder of whom, Anthony, Lord Burghley, will inherit the marquessate. He lives, as his father did, in North America, but remains keenly interested in what goes on at Burghley House, his ancestral home in Lincolnshire.

### Fife, Dukes of

James ‘Jamie’ George Alexander Bannerman Carnegie, 3rd Duke (1929–2015), only son of the 11th Earl of Southesk (1893–1992) and nephew of the 2nd Duchess. He married the Hon. Caroline Dewar and had two children; they divorced in 1966. His only son succeeded him in the dukedom. As a toddler in 1932, he spat on Queen Mary, his great-aunt, when she offered her hand to him to kiss. It did not put her off him: later, when he was in Malaya with the Scots Guards, she would send him food parcels.

David Charles Carnegie, 4th Duke (1961–), only son of the 3rd Duke. He married the horse-loving Caroline Bunting and together they have three sons, the eldest of whom, Charlie, Earl of Southesk, will succeed him in the dukedom. The Fifes live at Kinnaird Castle in Angus and are building a town on the Elsick estate just outside Aberdeen.

### Fitzwilliam, Earls

William Thomas Spencer Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, KG, DL, 6th Earl (1815–1902), eldest surviving son of the 5th Earl. He married Lady Frances ‘Fanny’ Douglas, and had twelve children who survived infancy. Both his wife and five of his children died in his lifetime, including his heir, William, Viscount Milton, whose own son Billy succeeded him in the earldom. A painting of a fox hunt hangs in an office at his ancestral home of Wentworth Woodhouse: he used to say that he had bred everything in it – not just two of his daughters, as well as the horses and hounds, but the huntsman, and a member of the hunt staff too.

Major William ‘Billy’ Charles de Meuron Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, KCVO, CBE, DSO, 7th Earl (1872–1942), only son of William Wentworth-

Fitzwilliam, Viscount Milton (1839–1877), and grandson of the 6th Earl. He married Lady Maud Dundas and had five children; his only son succeeded him in the earldom. His middle name of ‘de Meuron’ derives from the location on the Kaministiquia River in Canada at which he was born. His birth was not reported in *The Times* until he was two months old.

Captain William Henry Lawrence *Peter* Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, DSC, 8th Earl (1910–1948), only son of the 7th Earl. He married Olive ‘Obby’ Plunket, the daughter of Benjamin Plunket, Bishop of Meath, and they had a daughter, Lady Juliet (1935–). He was succeeded by his second cousin once removed. He served in the Second World War with the Grenadier Guards, 8 Commando, and with the Special Operations Executive. He and his wife referred to each other, respectively, as ‘Mrs Pod’ and ‘Mr Pod’.

Eric Spencer Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, 9th Earl (1883–1952), son of Captain Sir William Wentworth-Fitzwilliam (1848–1925) and first cousin once removed of the 8th Earl. He married Jessica Rowlands but the marriage was dissolved without issue. He lived at Barnsdale Hall on Rutland Water and spent most of his time drinking. He succeeded to the title after the 8th Earl’s death in a plane crash.

Captain William *Thomas* George Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, DL, 10th Earl (1904–1979), younger son of George Wentworth-Fitzwilliam (1866–1935) and second cousin of the 9th Earl. He married Joyce Langdale, formerly Viscountess FitzAlan, and had no legitimate children; together they had a daughter before they were married. He inherited the earldom from his second cousin following a court case that determined whether or not his elder brother Toby was legitimate; the court ruled that he was not. Upon his death, with no male heirs, the earldom became extinct.

### Hailsham, Viscounts

Major Quintin McGarel Hogg, KG, CH, 2nd Viscount but disclaimed in 1963 (1907–2001), elder son of the 1st Viscount. Thrice married, he had five children with his second wife, Mary Martin, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the viscountcy. He was a Conservative politician and served as Lord Chancellor under both Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher, having disclaimed his hereditary title in order to stay in the House of Commons. He was created a life peer as Baron Hailsham of St Marylebone in 1970.

Douglas Martin Hogg, KC, 3rd Viscount (1945–), eldest son of the 2nd Viscount, who disclaimed his title. He married the Hon. Sarah

Boyd-Carpenter, with whom he has two children, the younger of whom, the Hon. Quintin Hogg, will succeed him in the viscountcy. His wife was created a life peer in 1995 and as such the Hailshams are among the few married couples both to hold titles in their own right. In 2009, the *Telegraph* reported that, as MP for Sleaford and North Hykeham, he claimed expenses for the cleaning of his moat, at Kettlethorpe Hall, Lincolnshire.

### Hertford, Marquesses of

*(Title pronounced 'Harford'; surname pronounced 'Seamer')*

Hugh Edward Conway Seymour, DL, 8th Marquess (1930–1997), only son of Brigadier-General Lord Henry Seymour (1878–1939) and nephew of the 7th Marquess. He married Louise de Caraman, Princesse de Chimay, and had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He inherited the title at the age of nine, having read in the newspaper that a young boy of his age had succeeded his uncle – and to his surprise discovered that he was the young boy.

Henry 'Harry' Jocelyn Seymour, DL, 9th Marquess (1958–), only son of the 8th Marquess. He married the Brazilian Beatriz Karam and has four children, the eldest of whom, William, Earl of Yarmouth, will succeed him in the marquessate. His first job was working for Johnny Buccleuch at Boughton as a shepherd. William Yarmouth married Kelsey Wells and has two sons, the elder of whom is second in line to inherit the Hertford marquessate.

### Home, Earls of

*(Title and surname pronounced 'Hume')*

Alexander 'Alec' Frederick Douglas-Home, KT, DL, 14th Earl but disclaimed in 1963 (1903–1995), eldest son of the 13th Earl. He married Elizabeth Alington, the daughter of his Eton headmaster, and had four children, the youngest of whom succeeded him in the earldom that he disclaimed. As Lord Dunglass he accompanied Neville Chamberlain to his final meeting with Adolf Hitler in Munich in September 1938.

David Alexander Cospatrick Douglas-Home, KT, CVO, CBE, 15th Earl (1943–2022), only son of the 14th Earl who disclaimed his title. He married Jane Williams-Wynne and had three children, the youngest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was at Christ Church, Oxford as Lord Dunglass when his father disclaimed his peerage, and shortly after word was given that the act had been completed, the college

porters went around swapping the painted words ‘Lord Dunglass’ for ‘The Hon. David Douglas-Home’.

Michael David Alexander Douglas-Home, 16th Earl (1987–), only son of the 15th Earl. He married Sally Underhill, the daughter of an RAF officer, and has three children, the youngest of whom, Leo, Lord Dunglass, will succeed him in the earldom. He was a Page of Honour to Elizabeth II, 1997–2000.

### **Kimberley, Earls of**

*(Surname pronounced ‘Woodhouse’)*

John Wodehouse, 2nd Earl (1848–1932), eldest son of the 1st Earl. He married Isabel Stracey, the daughter of a baronet, and had four children. Two of his sons were killed in or from injuries sustained during the First World War, and he was succeeded in the earldom by his eldest and only surviving son. He was the first member of the Labour Party in the House of Lords and became known as the ‘Labour Earl’.

Captain John ‘Jack’ Wodehouse, CBE, MC, 3rd Earl (1883–1941), eldest son of the 2nd Earl. He married the socialite Margaret Irby and had one son, who succeeded him in the earldom. He represented his country playing polo at both the 1908 London and 1920 Antwerp Olympics. Until his death in the Blitz, he was the Other Man of Geordie Sutherland’s wife Eileen.

John Wodehouse, 4th Earl (1924–2002), only son of the 3rd Earl. He was married six times, and had four sons, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. His godfather was his third cousin thrice removed, P. G. Wodehouse. His mother did not discourage him in his infidelities, and he described his first marriage as a kind of insurance: ‘While I was married to her, I couldn’t be married to anyone else.’

John Armine Wodehouse, 5th Earl (1951–), eldest son of the 4th Earl. He married the Hon. Carol Palmer and has two children, the younger of whom, David, Lord Wodehouse, will succeed him in the earldom. He is a chemist and worked for GlaxoSmithKline for almost forty years.

### **Kinloss, Ladies**

Beatrice *Mary* Freeman-Grenville, 12th Lady (1922–2012), eldest daughter of Luis Morgan-Grenville, Master of Kinloss (1889–1944) and granddaughter of the 11th Lady. She married Dr Greville Freeman and had three children. Her son and heir the Hon. Bevil Freeman-Grenville died suddenly nine months before her and she was succeeded by her eldest

daughter. While her husband was working for the Aden Protectorate, she lived there as an ordinary housewife, before returning to the UK and taking up her seat in the House of Lords in early 1964.

Teresa Mary Nugent Freeman-Grenville, 13th Lady (1957–), eldest daughter of the 12th Lady. She is unmarried and the heir to her title is her sister, the Hon. Hester Haworth, Mistress of Kinloss. She was born in what was then Tanganyika, and has worked for the National Milk Records since 1992.

### **Lansdowne, Marquesses of**

Henry ‘Clan’ Charles Keith Petty-Fitzmaurice, KG, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, 5th Marquess (1845–1927), eldest son of the 4th Marquess. He married Lady Maud Hamilton, daughter of the Duke of Abercorn, and had four children, the second of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. His younger son was killed in the First World War. He served in many political roles – as Governor General of Canada, Viceroy of India, secretary of state for war and foreign secretary. His nickname comes from his courtesy title Viscount Clanmaurice.

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry ‘Kerry’ William Edmund Petty-Fitzmaurice, DSO, MVO, 6th Marquess (1872–1936), eldest son of the 5th Marquess. He married Elizabeth ‘Elsie’ Hope and had five children, the second of whom would have succeeded him but for his death in 1933. He was instead succeeded by his middle son in the marquessate. He was known as ‘Kerry’ throughout his life, owing to his courtesy title Earl of Kerry.

Captain Charles Hope Petty-Fitzmaurice, 7th Marquess (1917–1944), eldest surviving son of the 6th Marquess. He never married and was killed in Italy during the Second World War while serving with the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the memorial at Monte Cassino. His younger brother was killed nine days before him in Normandy. He was succeeded by his first cousin, Captain George Mercer Nairne.

Major George John Charles Mercer Nairne Petty-Fitzmaurice, DL, 8th Marquis (1912–1999), only son of Lord Charles Fitzmaurice, MVO (1874–1914) and first cousin of the 7th Marquess. He married four times and had four children from his first marriage to Barbara Chase, the daughter of an American businessman whom he met in California. As his father had been equerry to George V, the king was his godfather.

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Charles Maurice Petty-Fitzmaurice, LVO, DL, 9th Marquis (1941–), eldest son of the 8th Marquess. Twice married, he has four children, the third of whom, Simon, Earl of Kerry, will succeed him in the marquessate. He inherited Bowood House and opened it to the public in 1975. He served for eleven years as a member of the Council of the Duchy of Cornwall.

**Latymer, Barons**

Hugo Nevill Money-Coutts, 8th Baron (1926–2003), only son of the 7th Baron. He was twice married and had six children; his eldest son succeeded him in the barony. At Eton he rowed in the VIII and afterwards worked as a merchant banker before sailing to Australia via the Panama Canal. He settled in Majorca with his second wife.

Crispin James Alan Nevill Money-Coutts, 9th Baron (1955–), eldest son of the 8th Baron. Twice married, first to the Hon. Lucy Deedes, daughter of the journalist Bill Deedes, he has three children, the second of whom, the Hon. Drummond Money-Coutts, a magician, will succeed him in the barony. Like his father he is a keen rower, and represented Oxford University in the Boat Race in both 1975 and 1977.

**Leeds, Dukes of**

George Godolphin Osborne, 10th Duke (1862–1927), eldest surviving son of the 9th Duke. He married Lady Katherine Lambton and they had five children; his only son succeeded him in the dukedom. He was a keen yachtsman, a member of the Ancient Order of Druids and was sometime MFH, Bedale Hunt.

John Francis Godolphin Osborne, 11th Duke (1901–1963), only son of the 10th Duke. He was thrice married and had a daughter, Lady Camilla (1950–); he was succeeded in the dukedom by his second cousin once removed. He sold his ancestral home of Hornby Castle in 1930, partly to pay off his father's gambling debts, and became a tax exile on Jersey.

Francis *D'Arcy* Godolphin Osborne, KCMG, 12th Duke (1884–1964), eldest son of Sidney Osborne (1835–1903) and second cousin once removed of the 11th Duke. He never married and upon his death, with no remaining male heirs, the dukedom became extinct. He served as British Ambassador to the Holy See for eleven years and was a friend of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

**Linlithgow, Marquesses of**

Colonel Victor Alexander John Hope, KG, KT, GCSI, GCIE, OBE, 2nd Marquess (1887–1952), eldest son of the 1st Marquess. He married Doreen Milner, the daughter of a baronet and Conservative MP, and had five children, including twin boys. His eldest twin son succeeded him in the marquessate. He served as Viceroy of India in the pre-war period and until 1943.

Captain Charles William Frederick Hope, MC, 3rd Marquess (1912–1987), eldest twin son of the 2nd Marquess. He was twice married and had two children from his first marriage to Vivien Kenyon-Slaney, the younger of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He was captured in 1940 and later held as a prisoner-of-war at Oflag IV-C at Colditz Castle, Saxony, where he turned his hand to amateur dramatics, and played Ernest in a two-night production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Adrian John Charles Hope, 4th Marquess (1946–), only son of the 3rd Marquess. He has been thrice married and has four children; his eldest son, Andrew, Earl of Hopetoun, will succeed him in the marquessate. He has worked as a stockbroker.

**Londonderry, Marquesses of**

Major Charles Stewart Henry Vane-Tempest-Stewart, KG, MVO, 7th Marquess (1878–1949), eldest son of the 6th Marquess. He married the Hon. Edith 'Circe' Chaplin and had five children, the second of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He served as secretary of state for air for four years; owing to his German sympathies he acquired the unfortunate nickname of the 'Londonderry Herr'. On the mantelpiece of his study at Mount Stewart, County Down, he kept a small porcelain statue of an SS man carrying a Nazi flag, given to him by Joachim von Ribbentrop in 1936.

Edward Charles Stewart Robert 'Robin' Vane-Tempest-Stewart, DL, 8th Marquess (1902–1955), only son of the 7th Marquess, from whom he was long estranged. He married Romaine Combe, the daughter of an army officer, and had three children, the youngest of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. After his wife's death, depressed and lonely, he became an alcoholic and eventually drank himself to death.

Alexander 'Alastair' Charles Robert Vane-Tempest-Stewart, 9th Marquess (1937–2012), only son of the 8th Marquess. He married twice and had four children, the third of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He

sold the Londonderrys' remaining seat, Wynyard Hall, in 1987. He was an accomplished pianist and an authority on the Hungarian composer Franz Liszt.

Frederick Aubrey Vane-Tempest-Stewart, 10th Marquess (1972–), eldest son of the 9th Marquess. He married the artist Rita Nowak in 2022; his brother Lord Reginald, a photographer, is his heir. He works as a sculptor and has the most beautiful handwriting.

### Longford, Earls of

*(Surname pronounced 'Pack-en'um')*

Francis 'Frank' Aungier Pakenham, KG, 7th Earl (1905–2001), younger brother of the 6th Earl. He married Elizabeth Harman, who became a celebrated writer and historian, and with her had eight children, the second of whom succeeded him in the earldom. His eldest daughter Lady Antonia (1932–) also became a historian. He was a member of the Labour Party and served in various ministerial roles during both Clement Attlee's and Harold Wilson's governments. He befriended the murderer Myra Hindley whose release he campaigned for, earning him the soubriquet 'Lord Wrongford'.

Thomas Francis Dermot Pakenham, 8th Earl (1933–), eldest son of the 7th Earl. He married the writer Valerie Scott and has four children, the third of whom, Ned Pakenham, will succeed him in the earldom. Like his late wife, he is a writer. He does not use his title and as his earldom is an Irish peerage it cannot be disclaimed.

### Lonsdale, Earls of

Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Cecil Lowther, KG, GCVO, DL, 5th Earl (1857–1944), younger brother of the 4th Earl. Despite her parents' opposition, he married Lady Grace Gordon. After she fell and had a miscarriage out hunting, she found herself unable to have children. He was succeeded in the earldom by his younger brother. He was the first president of the Automobile Association (AA), and travelled between his houses with a twenty-five-piece private orchestra.

Captain Lancelot Edward Lowther, OBE, DL, 6th Earl (1867–1953), younger brother of the 5th Earl. He married Gwendoline Sheffield, the daughter of a baronet, and had three children. His only son, Anthony, Viscount Lowther, predeceased him and he was succeeded in the earldom by his grandson. Thanks to his brother's over-spending, he was forced to sell the contents of Lowther Castle in 1947.

Captain James Hugh William Lowther, 7th Earl (1922–2006), eldest son of Anthony, Viscount Lowther (1896–1949) and grandson of the 6th Earl. He married four times and had eight children, the second and fourth of whom successively succeeded him in the earldom. He took the roof off Lowther Castle in 1957, leaving it a romantic ruin, and for years resisted being included in the *Sunday Times* Rich List on the grounds that he was penniless. He subsequently appeared in the 2006 List with an estimated wealth of £80 million.

Hugh Clayton Lowther, 8th Earl (1949–2021), eldest son of the 7th Earl. He married thrice, and had one adopted son who could not inherit the earldom. He was succeeded by his half-brother. Following an accident in his teenage years he was unable to walk for long periods of time but enjoyed his ancestral lands from the air, in a microlight.

William Lowther, 9th Earl (1957–), half-brother of the 8th Earl. He married Angela Tinker; they have no children. His heir is his half-brother, the Hon. James ‘Jim’ Lowther, who with his wife runs Lowther Castle as a popular visitor attraction.

### Lothian, Marquesses of

(Surname pronounced ‘Car’)

Philip Henry Kerr, KT, CH, DL, 11th Marquess (1882–1940), eldest son of Major-General Lord Ralph Kerr (1837–1916) and first cousin of the 10th Marquess. He never married and was succeeded by his first cousin. As a young man he maintained a fairly untidy appearance and seems to have been wholly unselfconscious, as was demonstrated when in 1917, upon arrival at a country house in Lancashire to join David Lloyd George, he was mistaken by the butler for the prime minister’s valet and directed to the back entrance. At the time of his death he was British Ambassador to the US.

Peter Francis Walter Kerr, KCVO, DL, 12th Marquess (1922–2004), eldest son of Captain Andrew Kerr (1877–1929) and first cousin of the 11th Marquess. He married the writer Antonella ‘Tony’ Newland, and had six children, the second of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He was a devout Roman Catholic and in 1979 returned the Franciscan monastery of San Damiano, which he had inherited, to the Franciscan Friars Minor.

Michael Andrew Foster Jude Kerr, KC, 13th Marquess (1945–2024), eldest son of the 12th Marquess. He married Lady Jane Fitzalan Howard, from 2017 16th Lady Herries of Terregles, and had three daughters. He was succeeded in the marquessate by his younger brother. He was a barrister

and sometime deputy leader of the Conservative Party, known to his friends as ‘Crumb’ following an incident at a party in the 1960s when he introduced himself as ‘Lord Ancram’, his then-title, and the butler announced him as ‘Mr Norman Crumb’.

Ralph William Francis Joseph Kerr, 14th Marquess (1957–), younger brother of the 13th Marquess. Twice married, he has six children with his second wife, the artist Marie-Claire Black. His eldest son Johnnie, Earl of Ancram, will succeed him in the marquessate.

**Lovat, Lords**

(*Title pronounced ‘Luvvut’*)

Brigadier Simon ‘Shimi’ Christopher Joseph Fraser, DSO, MC, DL, 15th Lord (1911–1995), eldest son of the 14th Lord. He married Rosamond Broughton, daughter of Sir ‘Jock’ Delves Broughton, 11th Baronet, and had six children. Two of his four sons predeceased him, and he was succeeded in the title by his grandson. He ordered his personal piper, Bill Millin, to pipe him off the landing ramp at Sword Beach in Normandy on D-Day.

Simon Christopher Joseph Fraser, 16th Lord (1977–), elder son of Simon Fraser, Master of Lovat (1939–1994) and grandson of the 15th Lord. He married the Hon. Petra Palumbo and has two daughters. Currently his heir is his younger brother Jack, Master of Lovat. He manages the Lovat Estates in Inverness-shire, some of which were sold by his father in the 1990s.

**Lucan, Earls of**

Colonel George Charles Patrick ‘Pat’ Bingham, MC, 6th Earl (1898–1964), eldest son of the 5th Earl. He married fellow socialist Kaitlin Dawson and had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was a proud Labour member of the House of Lords and served as opposition chief whip.

Richard *John* Bingham, 7th Earl (1934–?), eldest son of the 6th Earl. He married Veronica Duncan with whom he had three children. His only son succeeded him in the earldom in 2016, forty-two years after he disappeared following the murder of Sandra Rivett, his children’s nanny. He gave up a short-lived career in banking to focus on gambling with cards, at which he was proficient.

George Charles Bingham, 8th Earl (1967–), only son of the 7th Earl. He married the Danish heiress Anne-Sofie Foghsgaard and has two children, the younger of whom, Charles, Lord Bingham, will succeed him in the earldom.

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**Mancroft, Barons**

Lieutenant-Colonel Stormont Mancroft Samuel, KBE, 2nd Baron (1914–1987), only son of the 1st Baron. He married Diana Lloyd, the daughter of an army officer, and had three children, the youngest of whom succeeded him in the barony. He wrote humorous articles for *Punch* magazine. His father changed his name by deed poll, from Samuel to Mancroft, so that he could attend Winchester College with a less conspicuously Jewish name, to avoid him being bullied. This did not work.

Benjamin Lloyd Stormont Mancroft, 3rd Baron (1957–), only son of the 2nd Baron. He married Emma Peart and has three children, the second of whom, Captain the Hon. Arthur Mancroft, will succeed him in the barony. As a result of his father's experience at Winchester, he was sent to Eton instead.

**Mansfield, Earls of**

Major Mungo David Malcolm Murray, DL, 7th Earl (1900–1971), only son of the 6th Earl. He married Dorothea Carnegie, the daughter of a diplomat, and had three children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was the founding chairman of the British Trust for Ornithology.

William David Mungo James Murray, DL, 8th Earl (1930–2015), only son of the 7th Earl. He married Pamela Foster, the daughter of an oil executive, and they had three children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was a loving but determined father, with very clear ideas as to the paths he wished his children to take.

Alexander David *Mungo* Murray, 9th Earl (1956–), eldest son of the 8th Earl. He married Sophia 'Sophy' Ashbrook and they have four children, the second of whom, William, Viscount Stormont, will succeed him in the earldom. As a teenager he worked as a tour guide at his family home of Scone Palace when it opened to the public.

**Mar, Earls of**

James Clifton of Mar, 30th Earl (1914–1975), eldest son of Charles Lane (1882–1956) and first cousin once removed of the 29th Earl. He married twice and had three children from his first marriage. His son predeceased him and he was succeeded in the earldom by his eldest daughter. He was a farmer in Kenya.

Margaret Alison of Mar, 31st Countess (1940–), eldest daughter of the 30th Earl. She has been married thrice and has a daughter from

her first marriage, who will succeed her in the title. She worked for British Telecom before turning her hand to farming; in 1989, she fell ill after being poisoned by the chemicals she was using to dip her sheep.

**Marlborough, Dukes of**

(*Title pronounced 'Maulbro'*)

George Charles Spencer-Churchill, DL, 8th Duke (1844–1892), eldest son of the 7th Duke. He was twice married, first to Lady Albertha 'Goosie' Hamilton, with whom he had four children, the second succeeding him as duke. He had a son from an extra-marital relationship with the Countess of Aylesford, and was said to care more for him than for his legitimate children – something they noted. The Prince of Wales declared him 'the greatest blackguard alive' for his role in what became known as the Aylesford Scandal.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles 'Sunny' Richard John Spencer-Churchill, KG, 9th Duke (1871–1934), only legitimate son of the 8th Duke. Twice married, he had two sons with his first wife, the American heiress Consuelo Vanderbilt, the first of whom succeeded him in the dukedom. On one occasion he gave each of his grandchildren a gift of a hard-boiled plover's egg.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Albert 'Bert' Edward William Spencer-Churchill, DL, 10th Duke (1897–1972), elder son of the 9th Duke. He was married twice, first to the Hon. Mary Cadogan, and had five children, the third of whom succeeded him in the dukedom. Upon his birth he displaced his first cousin, the future prime minister Winston Churchill, in the ducal line of succession.

Captain John George 'Sunny' Vanderbilt Henry Spencer-Churchill, DL, 11th Duke (1926–2014), eldest son of the 10th Duke. He married four times and had six children, four of whom survived into adulthood. His eldest surviving son succeeded him in the dukedom. His nickname was derived not from his cheery disposition but from his courtesy title Earl of Sunderland.

Charles *James* Spencer-Churchill, 12th Duke (1955–), eldest surviving son of the 11th Duke. Twice married, he has three children, the eldest of whom, George, Marquess of Blandford, will succeed him in the dukedom. He is one of the few of today's peers to have spent time in prison.

**Middleton, Barons**

Captain Digby Wentworth Bayard Willoughby, DL, 9th Baron (1844–1922), eldest son of the 8th Baron. He married Eliza 'Eisa' Gordon-Cumming,

daughter of a Scottish baronet, but the marriage was childless and he was succeeded in the barony by his younger brother. He was MFH East Riding Fox Hounds, Lord Middleton's Hunt, for forty-three years, and wholeheartedly took on the role of local dignitary.

Captain Godfrey *Ernest* Willoughby, 10th Baron (1847–1924), younger brother of the 9th Baron. He married Ida Ross and had eight children, two of whom predeceased him. He was succeeded in the barony by his second son. He served in both the navy and the army – as a midshipman on HMS *Liffey* in the West Indies, and later in the 9th Lancers.

Colonel Michael *Guy* Percival Willoughby, KG, MC, 11th Baron (1887–1970), eldest surviving son of the 10th Baron. He married Angela Hall and had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the barony. He was known to have advertised for a clergyman for one of his church livings in the pages of *Horse & Hound*.

Major Digby *Michael* Godfrey John Willoughby, MC, DL, 12th Baron (1921–2011), eldest son of the 11th Baron. He married Janet Marshall-Cornwall, the daughter of a general, and had three sons, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the barony. He lived for seventy of his ninety years at Birdsall, near Malton; his wife worked for MI6.

Michael Charles James Willoughby, DL, 13th Baron (1948–), eldest son of the 12th Baron. He married the Hon. Lucy Sidney, daughter of William 'Bill' Sidney, 1st Viscount De L'Isle, VC, and has five children, the eldest of whom, the Hon. James Willoughby, will succeed him in the barony. He was master of the Middleton Hunt for four years.

### Milford, Barons

Laurence Richard Philipps, 1st Baron (1874–1962), sixth son of Reverend Sir James Philipps, 12th Baronet (1824–1912), created Baron Milford in 1939. He married Ethel Speke, the daughter of a clergyman, and had six children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the barony. He founded the shipping company Court Line, in which business he made his money.

Wogan Philipps, 2nd Baron (1902–1993), eldest son of the 1st Baron. He was thrice married, first to the writer Rosamond Lehmann, with whom he had a son and a daughter; the former succeeded him in the barony. He was the only member of the Communist Party to sit in the House of Lords, having found inspiration for radical left-wing politics while observing the General Strike.

Hugo John Laurence Philipps, 3rd Baron (1929–1999), only son of the 2nd Baron. He was thrice married and had five children; the second of whom

succeeded him in the barony. He spent much of his time at Cambridge on the river in boats; parties were often given in honour of his mother Rosamond whenever she came to visit.

Guy Wogan Philipps, KC, 4th Baron (1961–), eldest son of the 3rd Baron. He married Alice Sherwood and has two sons, the elder of whom, the Hon. Archie Philipps, will succeed him in the barony. In 1988 he edited an anthology of atrociousness, having been given an anthology of goodness in his younger years, and believing that the world was in need of a contrary volume.

**Montagu of Beaulieu, Barons**

(*Title pronounced ‘Montagu of Bewly’*)

Edward John Barrington Douglas-Scott-Montagu, 3rd Baron (1926–2015), only son of the 2nd Baron. He married twice, and had three children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the barony. He founded the National Motor Museum at his Beaulieu estate in Hampshire.

Ralph Douglas-Scott-Montagu, 4th Baron (1961–), eldest son of the 3rd Baron. He married Ailsa Camm; his heir is his younger half-brother, the Hon. Jonathan Douglas-Scott-Montagu. He works as a graphic designer and as head of heritage at the *Radio Times*, alongside managing Beaulieu.

**Moray, Earls of**

(*Title pronounced ‘Murry’*)

Captain Francis Douglas Stuart, MC, 18th Earl (1892–1943), eldest son of the 17th Earl. He married Barbara Murray, an American, and the daughter of a lawyer, in Paris, and had three daughters. He was succeeded in the earldom by his younger brother. He was awarded the Military Cross during the First World War for shooting down a German Fokker.

Lieutenant-Commander Archibald *John* Morton Stuart, 19th Earl (1894–1974), younger brother of the 18th Earl. He married Mabel Wilson, the daughter of a pioneer who worked for Cecil Rhodes, whom he met in Bulawayo, modern-day Zimbabwe. They had four children, the second of whom succeeded him in the earldom. On the family ranch, he bought an Airspeed Oxford plane and built a hangar for it out of corrugated iron. When one day his daughter Hermione had an attack of appendicitis, he saved her life by flying her to Johannesburg.

Douglas John Moray Stuart, 20th Earl (1928–2011), eldest son of the 19th Earl. He married Lady Malvina Murray and had two children, the elder of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He began collecting

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cars in 1953, and in 1970 opened his collection as the Doune Motor Museum; it included, variously, a 1905 Rolls-Royce, the second-oldest in the world, a 1938 Bugatti 57C, and a 1973 Ferrari Dino.

John Douglas Stuart, 21st Earl (1966–), only son of the 20th Earl. He married Cathy Lawson and has three sons, the eldest of whom, James, Lord Doune, will succeed him in the earldom. When *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* was being filmed at the Morays' Doune Castle in 1974, he went to watch.

### **Moyne, Barons**

Major Bryan Walter Guinness, 2nd Baron (1905–1992), eldest son of the 1st Baron. He was married twice, first to the Hon. Diana Freeman-Mitford, and had two sons, the first of whom succeeded him in the barony. He had a further nine children with his second wife. He qualified for the bar in 1930 but struggled for cases due to the fact that he was supposed to be – and was – incredibly rich and did not need the work.

Jonathan Bryan Guinness, 3rd Baron (1930–), elder son of the 2nd Baron. He has been married twice and has eight children. His eldest son predeceased him and he will be succeeded in the barony by his second son, the Hon. Valentine Guinness. His mother didn't like the term 'Daddy' and so he called his father 'Bryan' his whole life.

### **Norfolk, Dukes of**

Major Bernard Marmaduke Fitzalan Howard, KG, GCVO, GBE, 16th Duke (1908–1975), eldest surviving son of the 15th Duke. He married the Hon. Lavinia Strutt and had four daughters; he was succeeded in the dukedom, and as Earl Marshal, by his second cousin once removed. While on a tour of Australia as manager of the England cricket team in the 1960s, he told reporters that he hoped this would be an informal tour, and that they should address him merely as 'Sir' rather than 'Your Grace'. He inherited the dukedom at the age of nine.

Major-General Miles Francis Stapleton Fitzalan Howard, KG, GCVO, CB, CBE, MC, DL, 17th Duke (1915–2002), eldest son of Bernard Fitzalan Howard, 3rd Baron Howard of Glossop (1885–1972), and second cousin once removed of the 16th Duke. He married Anne Constable-Maxwell and had five children, the fourth of whom succeeded him in the dukedom. All eight of his siblings had Christian names beginning with the letter 'M'.

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Edward William Fitzalan Howard, GCVO, DL, 18th Duke (1956–), eldest son of the 17th Duke. He has been twice married, with five children from his first marriage, the eldest of whom, Henry, Earl of Arundel, will succeed him in the dukedom and as Earl Marshal. In recent years he has successfully embarked on a project to save the grey partridge on his West Sussex estate.

**Northumberland, Dukes of**

Captain Alan Ian Percy, KG, CBE, MVO, 8th Duke (1880–1930), eldest surviving son of the 7th Duke. He married Lady Helen Gordon Lennox, daughter of the 7th Duke of Richmond, and had six children, the eldest of whom succeeded him as duke. He was a radical right-wing writer and newspaper proprietor, in addition to having numerous landed interests in Northumberland.

Henry *George* Alan Percy, 9th Duke (1912–1940), eldest son of the 8th Duke. He was killed in action in Belgium during the retreat to Dunkirk while serving with the Grenadier Guards. He never married though was considered one of the country's most eligible bachelors. He was succeeded in the dukedom by his younger brother.

Captain Hugh 'Hughie' Algernon Percy, KG, GCVO, 10th Duke (1914–1988), younger brother of the 9th Duke. He married Lady Elizabeth Montagu Douglas Scott, daughter of the Duke of Buccleuch, having proposed to her after riding all the way from Alnwick Castle in Northumberland to Drumlanrig Castle in Dumfriesshire. They had seven children, the fourth of whom succeeded him as duke. He served as master of the Percy Hunt for forty-eight years.

Henry 'Harry' Alan Walter Richard Percy, 11th Duke (1953–1995), eldest son of the 10th Duke. He never married and was succeeded in the dukedom by his younger brother. A godson of Elizabeth II, he suffered badly with depression.

Ralph George Algernon Percy, DL, 12th Duke (1956–), younger brother of the 11th Duke. He married Jane Richard, the daughter of a stockbroker, and has four children, the second of whom, George, Earl Percy, will succeed him in the dukedom and in the running of Northumberland Estates. He has a black cocker spaniel called Hector.

**Onslow, Earls of**

William Hillier Onslow, GCMG, DL, 4th Earl (1853–1911), only son of George Onslow (1812–1855) and great-nephew of the 3rd Earl. He

married the Hon. Florence Gardner and had four children, the second of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was Governor of New Zealand 1889–1892 and gave his youngest son a Maori name.

Major Richard ‘Cranley’ William Alan Onslow, GBE, 5th Earl (1876–1945), eldest son of the 4th Earl. He married the Hon. Violet Bampfylde and had two children, the second of whom succeeded him in the earldom. In 1927, he gave six acres of land in Guildford for the site on which Guildford Cathedral was built.

Captain William *Arthur* Bampfylde Onslow, KBE, MC, 6th Earl (1913–1971), only son of the 5th Earl. He was married twice and had two children, the elder of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was awarded the Military Cross while serving in North Africa during the Second World War. Shortly after, he led a group of tanks into action while standing on top of a scout car and waving them on with his handkerchief. Later, he was taken prisoner.

Michael William Coplestone Dillon Onslow, 7th Earl (1938–2011), only son of the 6th Earl. He married Robin Bullard, an American, and had three children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was a popular member of the House of Lords with a penchant for bow ties. He appeared on *Have I Got News for You* twice and presented a five-part series on Radio 3 during which he would announce, ‘It’s time to get trippin’ with me, Lord Onslow.’

Rupert Charles William Bullard Onslow, 8th Earl (1967–), only son of the 7th Earl. He married Leigh Jones-Fenleigh and has a daughter, Lady Olympia (2003–). His heir is his fourth cousin once removed Anthony Onslow. He works in fine art underwriting and is a keen equestrian.

### Peel, Earls

Arthur William Ashton Peel, 2nd Earl (1901–1969), only son of the 1st Earl. He married Kathleen McGrath and had two sons, the elder succeeding him in the earldom. He was a keen shot and loved traditional folk songs as well as the music of Gilbert and Sullivan.

William James Robert Peel, GCVO, DL, 3rd Earl (1947–), elder son of the 2nd Earl. He has married twice and has three children, the eldest of whom, Ashton, Viscount Clanfield, will inherit the earldom. He loves music – before his father died he ran a mobile discotheque in Italy. His favourite band is the Steve Miller Band.

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**Richmond and Gordon, Dukes of**

Charles Henry Gordon Lennox, KG, GCVO, CB, 7th Duke (1845–1928), eldest son of the 6th Duke. He married twice, was widowed twice, and had seven children, the eldest of whom succeeded him as duke. After his first wife, Amy Ricardo, died in 1879, the light went out of his life, and his sister Caroline took over the parenting of his five young children.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles ‘Set’ Henry Gordon Lennox, DSO, MVO, 8th Duke (1870–1935), eldest son of the 7th Duke. He married Hilda Brassey, granddaughter of railway contractor Thomas Brassey, who, by 1847, had built a third of the railways in Britain. They had five children: his eldest son, Charlie, Lord Settrington, was killed in the months following the end of the First World War while fighting with the White Russians, and he was succeeded in the dukedom by his second son. He contracted polio in 1915 and was paralysed from the waist down as a result.

Frederick Charles Gordon Lennox, 9th Duke (1904–1989), eldest surviving son of the 8th Duke. He married Elizabeth Hudson and they had two sons, the elder of whom succeeded him in the dukedom. He dropped out of Oxford to work at Bentley Motors in north London as ‘Mr Settrington’, and later established his Goodwood estate as a centre of motor racing.

Charles Henry Gordon Lennox, DL, 10th Duke (1929–2017), eldest son of the 9th Duke. He married Susan Grenville-Grey and had five children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the dukedom. He was a liberal man who was not interested in possessions.

Charles Henry Gordon Lennox, CBE, DL, 11th Duke (1955–), only son of the 10th Duke. He has married twice and has five children, the second of whom, Charlie, Earl of March, will succeed him in the dukedom. He left Eton early and went to work as a stills photographer for the film director Stanley Kubrick.

**Rosebery, Earls of**

Archibald Philip Primrose, KG, KT, 5th Earl (1847–1929), eldest son of Archibald, Lord Dalmeny (1809–1851) and grandson of the 4th Earl. He married the heiress Hannah de Rothschild; Benjamin Disraeli gave her away at their wedding. They had four children, the third of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was prime minister for fifteen months from March 1894, and was fascinated by Napoleon Bonaparte.

Albert Edward *Harry* Meyer Archibald Primrose, KT, DSO, MC, 6th Earl (1882–1974), eldest son of the 5th Earl. He married twice and had three

children who survived infancy. His eldest son predeceased him and he was succeeded in the earldom by his younger son. He was a keen cricketer and racehorse owner, and won the Derby with two of his horses, Blue Peter and Ocean Swell.

Neil Archibald Primrose, DL, 7th Earl (1929–2024), eldest surviving son of the 6th Earl. He married Deirdre Reid and had five children, the youngest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was an early adopter of computers and bought a mainframe computer which he nursed well beyond its lifespan. When his family contacted the manufacturer to ask for help with it, they received the reply, ‘There’s a man in Scotland who is really good on these computers – he’s called Lord Rosebery . . .’

Harry Ronald Neil Primrose, DL, 8th Earl (1967–), only son of the 7th Earl. He has married twice and has five children, the youngest of whom, Caspian, Lord Dalmeny, will succeed him in the earldom. One of his life’s ambitions is to ride the Cresta Run in under fifty seconds.

### Rossmore, Barons

William ‘Paddy’ Warner Westenra, 7th Baron (1931–2021), only son of the 6th Baron. He married Valerie Tobin and had a son, who succeeded him in the barony. He worked as a photographer and was prone to wearing old clothes with holes in them. In the 1960s he had a relationship with the singer Marianne Faithfull.

Benedict William Westenra, 8th Baron (1983–), only son of the 7th Baron. He is unmarried and there is no heir to the title. He has worked as a composer and music teacher.

### Roxburghe, Dukes of

*(Title pronounced ‘Roxborough’; surname pronounced ‘Innez Car’)*

Henry ‘Kelso’ John Innes Ker, KT, MVO (1876–1932), 8th Duke, eldest son of the 7th Duke. He married Mary ‘May’ Goelet, the daughter of a New York real estate magnate. They had a son who succeeded him in the dukedom. He was badly injured at Roulers in October 1914 while serving with the Royal Horse Guards and was thereafter unable to ride. This was a severe blow for him as a keen huntsman and polo player.

Major George ‘Bobo’ Victor Robert John Innes Ker, 9th Duke (1913–1974), only son of the 8th Duke. He married Lady Mary Crewe-Milnes, but the marriage ended in divorce after he had attempted to evict her from Floors Castle. He remarried and had two sons, the first of whom

succeeded him in the dukedom. His valet, Charles Chandler, returned to Floors after the Second World War, having been taken prisoner by the Japanese; Bobo left him £1,000 in his will.

Guy David Innes Ker, 10th Duke (1954–2019), elder son of the 9th Duke. He married twice and had five children, the second of whom succeeded him in the dukedom. He was awarded Sword of Honour for being the best cadet at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in 1974.

Captain Charles Robert George Innes Ker, 11th Duke (1981–), eldest son of the 10th Duke. He has married twice and has two children, the younger of whom, Frederick, Marquess of Bowmont and Cessford, will succeed him in the dukedom. Only two Roxburghe dukes since 1707 have lived beyond the age of sixty-four, perhaps because of what is known by some as the ‘Roxburghe Curse’. The story goes that the 5th Duke assaulted a gypsy woman from the village of Yetholm, seven miles south of Floors, so bringing a curse upon the family that no duke would live to see his first-born son’s first-born son.

#### **Rutland, Dukes of**

Captain Henry John Brinsley Manners, KG, 8th Duke (1852–1925), eldest son of the 7th Duke. He married the artist Violet Lindsay and had five children, at least one of whom was not his biologically. His elder son, Robert, Lord Haddon, predeceased him and he was succeeded in the dukedom by his second son. He and his wife were publicly and almost professionally unfaithful to one another. His interests were largely fishing and sex.

Captain John Henry Montagu Manners, 9th Duke (1886–1940), eldest surviving son of the 8th Duke. He married Kathleen ‘Kakoo’ Tennant, granddaughter of the industrialist Sir Charles Tennant, 1st Baronet, and had five children, the third of whom succeeded him in the dukedom. He was an authority on medieval art. When in 1933 his eldest daughter Lady Ursula was seventeen, he escorted her to Drummond’s Bank to open her first account, wearing a frock coat with a gardenia in his buttonhole.

Captain Charles John Robert Manners, CBE, DL, 10th Duke (1919–1999), eldest son of the 9th Duke. He was married twice, secondly to Frances Sweeny, and had five children, the second of whom succeeded him in the dukedom. He served on Leicestershire County Council for forty years.

David Charles Robert Manners, 11th Duke (1959–), eldest son of the 10th Duke. He married Emma Watkins, from whom he is legally separated, and has five children, the fourth of whom, Charles, Marquess of Granby,

will succeed him in the dukedom. He inherited his great-grandfather's 1908 Renault and in 2008 drove it to Dieppe from his home, Belvoir Castle, for a festival of classic cars from around the world.

### Sackville, Barons

Lionel Edward Sackville-West, DL, 3rd Baron (1867–1928), eldest son of the Hon. William Sackville-West (1830–1905) and nephew of the 2nd Baron. He married his first cousin Victoria Sackville-West, and had a daughter, the writer Vita Sackville-West. Upon his death, his body was put into a lead coffin in the chapel at Knole.

Major-General Charles 'Charlie' John Sackville-West, KBE, CB, CMG, 4th Baron (1870–1962), younger brother of the 3rd Baron. He married twice and had two children, the first of whom succeeded him in the barony. He served in the Anglo-Manipur War, the Second Boer War and the First World War, and was wounded at the Somme. He was evacuated back to Britain, and then posted back to the Western Front, where he was promptly wounded again. He ended his wartime service working for Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson at Versailles.

Edward 'Eddy' Charles Sackville-West, 5th Baron (1901–1965), only son of the 4th Baron. He never married and was succeeded in the barony by his first cousin. He was a writer and music critic, and the model for Uncle Davey in Nancy Mitford's 1945 novel *The Pursuit of Love*.

Captain Lionel Bertrand Sackville-West, 6th Baron (1913–2004), elder son of the Hon. Bertrand Sackville-West (1872–1959) and first cousin of the 5th Baron. He was thrice married with five daughters, and was succeeded in the barony by his nephew. During the First World War he wrote to George V asking when the war would be over, since he missed his father and having sugar in his porridge. The king replied saying that he missed having sugar in his porridge, too.

Robert Bertrand Sackville-West, DL, 7th Baron (1958–), elder son of Hugh Sackville-West (1919–2001) and nephew of the 6th Baron. He has married twice and has three children, the second of whom, the Hon. Arthur Sackville-West, will succeed him in the barony. He has written two books on the Sackville-Wests and Knole.

### St Albans, Dukes of

(Surname pronounced 'Bo-clare')

Colonel Charles Frederick Aubrey de Vere Beauclerk, OBE, 13th Duke (1915–1988), only son of Aubrey Beauclerk (1850–1933) and second

cousin of the 12th Duke. He married twice and had five surviving children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the dukedom. He grew up understanding that he would one day be duke and took the family history seriously, restoring the Beauclerk mausoleum in Lincolnshire.

Murray de Vere Beauclerk, 14th Duke (1939–), eldest son of the 13th Duke. He has been married three times and has two children, the second of whom, Charles, Earl of Burford, will succeed him in the dukedom. A member of the Drapers' Company, he is a qualified accountant and lives in Chelsea.

**Salisbury, Marquesses of**

*(Surname pronounced 'Gascoyne-Cissel')*

Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne-Cecil, KG, GCVO, DL, 3rd Marquess (1830–1903), eldest surviving son of the 2nd Marquess. He married Georgina Alderson, the daughter of a judge, and had seven children who survived infancy, the third of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He took no interest in clothes and was once, as prime minister, refused entrance to a casino in Monte Carlo for being inappropriately dressed.

Lieutenant-Colonel James 'Jem' Edward Hubert Gascoyne-Cecil, KG, GCVO, 4th Marquess (1861–1947), eldest son of the 3rd Marquess. He married Lady Alice Gore and had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He was the smallest and frailest of the five boys in his family and his poor health often caused him to be laid up for weeks on end.

Robert 'Bobbety' Arthur James Gascoyne-Cecil, KG, 5th Marquess (1893–1972), eldest son of the 4th Marquess. He married Elizabeth 'Betty' Cavendish and had three sons, two of whom predeceased both their parents. His eldest son succeeded him in the marquessate. He had a lisp, but his grandchildren still loved the fact that he read to them when they were little.

Captain Robert Edward Peter Gascoyne-Cecil, DL, 6th Marquess (1916–2003), eldest son of the 5th Marquess. He married the gardener Marjorie 'Mollie' Wyndham-Quin and had six surviving children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. His second son Lord Richard Cecil, a freelance journalist, was killed in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1978.

Robert Michael James Gascoyne-Cecil, KG, KCVO, 7th Marquess of Salisbury (1946–), eldest son of the 6th Marquess. He married Hannah Stirling, daughter of the SAS commander Bill Stirling, and has five

children, the eldest of whom, Ned, Viscount Cranborne, will succeed him in the marquessate. He negotiated the deal for ninety-two hereditary peers to remain in the House of Lords in 1999.

### Sandwich, Earls of

George Charles Montagu, 9th Earl (1874–1962), only son of Rear-Admiral the Hon. Victor Montagu (1841–1915) and nephew of the 8th Earl. He was twice married, first to the American heiress Alberta Sturges, and had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was the author of several books, including one on locomotives.

Alexander *Victor* ‘Hinch’ Edward Paulet Montagu, 10th Earl but disclaimed in 1964 (1906–1995), eldest son of the 9th Earl. He was twice married, first to the artist Rosemary Peto, and had six surviving children, the fourth of whom succeeded him in the earldom that he disclaimed in order to remain a Conservative MP. In the end, he failed to win a seat in the 1964 general election and was therefore left without a place in either the House of Commons or the Lords. His nickname derived from his courtesy title Viscount Hinchingbrooke.

John Edward Hollister Montagu, 11th Earl (1943–2025), eldest son of the 10th Earl who disclaimed his title. He married Caroline Hayman and had three children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. As a little boy he picked primroses from the garden at Hinchingbrooke House to sell to the visiting public.

Luke Timothy Charles Montagu, 12th Earl (1969–), eldest son of the 11th Earl. He married the American yoga instructor and entrepreneur Julie Fisher and has two sons, the elder of whom, William, Viscount Hinchingbrooke, will succeed him in the earldom. With his wife he runs a successful YouTube channel documenting their life at Mapperton House in Dorset.

### Shaftesbury, Earls of

Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 10th Earl (1938–2004), only son of Major Anthony Ashley-Cooper, Lord Ashley (1900–1947), and grandson of the 9th Earl. He was thrice married and had two sons, the elder of whom succeeded him in the earldom. His third wife admitted that her brother had murdered him in Cannes and later dumped his body.

Anthony Nils Christian Ashley-Cooper, 11th Earl (1977–2005), elder son of the 10th Earl. He was unmarried and died while visiting his brother in New York City, six weeks after inheriting the title.

Nicholas Edmund Anthony Ashley-Cooper, DL, 12th Earl (1979–), younger brother of the 11th Earl. He married the German veterinary surgeon Dinah Streifeneder and has three children, the eldest of whom, Anthony, Lord Ashley, will succeed him in the earldom. He proposed to his wife in front of St Giles House, his family's ancestral home in Dorset.

**Shrewsbury, Earls of**

Major Charles Henry John Chetwynd-Talbot, KCVO, 20th Earl (1860–1921), only son of the 19th Earl. He married Ellen Palmer-Morewood and had two children. His only son predeceased him and he was succeeded in the earldom by his grandson. He founded and ran his own hansom cab business.

Captain John George Chetwynd-Talbot, 21st Earl (1914–1980), only son of Charles, Viscount Ingestre (1882–1915) and grandson of the 20th Earl. He was twice married: his first marriage resulted in six children and culminated in a divorce that was both extremely public and extremely expensive. His eldest son succeeded him in the earldom.

Charles Henry John Benedict Crofton Chetwynd Chetwynd-Talbot, 22nd Earl (1952–), eldest son of the 21st Earl. He married Deborah Hutchinson and has three children, the second of whom, James, Viscount Ingestre, will succeed him in the earldom. He left school at sixteen and went to work at a racing stables, becoming an amateur jockey.

**Shuttleworth, Barons**

Ughtred James Kay-Shuttleworth, DL, 1st Baron (1844–1939), eldest son of the social reformer Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth, 1st Baronet (1804–1877), created Baron Shuttleworth in 1902. He married Blanche Parish, the daughter of a diplomat, and had six children. Both of his sons were killed during the First World War, and he was therefore succeeded by his grandson. He was proud of having been the last survivor of Gladstone's last government, and regarded this as a personal triumph.

Richard Ughtred Paul Kay-Shuttleworth, 2nd Baron (1913–1940), eldest son of Captain the Hon. Lawrence Kay-Shuttleworth (1887–1917) and grandson of the 1st Baron. He never married and was succeeded by his younger brother. He learned to fly at Cambridge before the Second World War and was killed during the Battle of Britain while flying a Hurricane.

Captain Ronald Orlando Lawrence Kay-Shuttleworth, 3rd Baron (1917–1942), younger brother of the 2nd Baron. He was killed in North Africa

while serving with the Royal Artillery. He never married and was succeeded in the barony by his nephew.

Captain Charles ‘Tom’ Ughtred John Kay-Shuttleworth, MC, DL, 4th Baron (1917–1975), only son of the Hon. Edward ‘Ted’ Kay-Shuttleworth (1890–1917) and nephew of the 3rd Baron. He married Anne Phillips and had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the barony. He lost one and a half legs during the Second World War, but nevertheless persisted in going shooting, aided by his shooting stick. He was a Freemason.

Charles Geoffrey Nicholas Kay-Shuttleworth, KG, KCVO, 5th Baron (1948–), eldest son of the 4th Baron. He married Ann Whatman and has three sons, the eldest of whom, the Hon. Tom Kay-Shuttleworth, will succeed him in the barony. He was appointed a Knight of the Garter in 2016.

### Sligo, Marquesses of

Denis Edward Browne, 10th Marquess (1908–1991), eldest son of Captain Lord Alfred Browne, DSO (1878–1918), nephew of the 9th Marquess, and, incredibly, grandson of the 5th Marquess. Both of his parents died before he was ten, and he was brought up by his maternal grandparents. His father was posthumously awarded the DSO and young Denis went to Buckingham Palace to receive the medal from George V on his father’s behalf. He married the artist José Gauche and had a son who succeeded him in the marquessate.

Jeremy Ulick Browne, 11th Marquess (1939–2014), only son of the 10th Marquess. He married Jennifer Cooper and had five daughters; he was succeeded by his first cousin. He did not use the title and changed his name by deed poll to ‘Jeremy Ulick Browne Altamont’ in 1986. With his father he opened his ancestral home, Westport House in County Mayo, to the public in 1960.

Sebastian Ulick Browne, 12th Marquess (1964–), only son of Lord Ulick Browne (1915–1979) and first cousin of the 11th Marquess. He has married twice and has two children, the second of whom, Christopher, Earl of Altamont, will succeed him in the marquessate. He emigrated to Australia in 1997.

### Stafford, Barons

Basil Francis Nicholas Fitzherbert, DL, 14th Baron (1926–1986), elder son of Captain the Hon. Thomas Fitzherbert (1869–1937) and nephew of the 13th Baron. He married Morag Campbell and had six children, the

second of whom succeeded him in the barony. In 1962 he was described as ‘a peer with mud on his boots’, not just because he was a farmer but because he played for and was president of Stafford Rugby Club.

Francis Melfort William Fitzherbert, DL, 15th Baron (1954–), eldest son of the 14th Baron. He married Katie Codrington and has four children, the eldest of whom, the Hon. Ben Fitzherbert, will succeed him in the barony. Despite having left Reading University without a degree, he served for a decade as chancellor of Staffordshire University, in which role he presented thousands of degrees. Unusually, there are two men in the peerage called Lord Stafford – Francis Stafford and the Duke of Sutherland’s eldest son the Marquis of Stafford.

### **Stansgate, Viscounts**

Air Commodore William Wedgwood Benn, DSO, DFC, 1st Viscount (1877–1960), second son of Sir John Benn, 1st Baronet (1850–1922), created Viscount Stansgate in 1942. He married Margaret Holmes, daughter of a Scottish Liberal MP, and had three surviving sons, the second of whom succeeded him in the viscountcy but soon after disclaimed the title. Since he had fought in the First World War, his wife was rather surprised when, at the outbreak of the Second, he met her one day at St James’s Park underground station wearing his pilot officer’s uniform. When she asked who would look after his constituency while he was away, he replied that he hoped she would do that.

Anthony ‘Tony’ Neil Wedgwood Benn, 2nd Viscount but disclaimed in 1963 (1925–2014), eldest surviving son of the 1st Viscount. He married the American Caroline DeCamp, to whom he proposed on a bench in Oxford, and had four children, the eldest succeeding him in the viscountcy that he disclaimed. He later bought the bench from Oxford City Council and placed it in the family garden in Holland Park. He was teetotal and a vegetarian.

Stephen Michael Wedgwood Benn, 3rd Viscount (1951–), eldest son of the 2nd Viscount, who disclaimed his title. He married Ashika Bowes and has two children, the second of whom, the Hon. Daniel Benn, will succeed him in the viscountcy. He was elected a Labour hereditary peer in the House of Lords in July 2021 and made his maiden speech later that year.

### **Suffolk and Berkshire, Earls of**

Major Henry Molyneux Paget Howard, 19th Earl (1877–1917), eldest son of the 18th Earl. He married Margaret ‘Daisy’ Leiter, an American heiress,

and had three children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was killed near Baghdad while serving with the Royal Field Artillery during the First World War. He was a keen amateur dramatist.

Charles ‘Jack’ Henry George Howard, GC, 20th Earl (1906–1941), eldest son of the 19th Earl. He married the actress Minnie ‘Mimi’ Forde-Pigott and had three sons, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the earldom. His mother did not approve of his choice of wife and began auctioning items from Charlton Park, the family’s ancestral home, to force him to buy back his inheritance. A civilian bomb disposal expert, he was killed in the line of duty during the Second World War on Erith Marshes, Kent.

Michael ‘Mickey’ John James George Robert Howard, 21st Earl (1935–2022), eldest son of the 20th Earl. He was thrice married and had four surviving children, the second of whom succeeded him in the earldom. He was one of the models for the novelist Jilly Cooper’s lothario protagonist Rupert Campbell-Black.

Alexander Charles Michael Winston Robsahm Howard, 22nd Earl (1974–), only son of the 21st Earl. He married Victoria Hamilton and has two children; they divorced in 2018. His son Arthur, Viscount Andover, will succeed him in the earldom. He enjoys driving and owning fast cars.

### Sutherland, Dukes of

*(Surnames pronounced ‘Loosun-Gore’ and ‘Edger-ton’)*

Commander George ‘Geordie’ Granville Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, KT, 5th Duke (1888–1963), eldest son of the 4th Duke. He was twice married, first to Lady Eileen Butler, but neither marriage produced any children. He was succeeded in the dukedom by his third cousin once removed and in his identically named earldom by his niece. He served as Lord Steward of the Household for his friend Edward VIII, but found the role dull, uninspiring and routine.

Captain John Sutherland Egerton, DL, 6th Duke (1915–2000), only son of John Egerton, 4th Earl of Ellesmere (1872–1944), and third cousin once removed of the 5th Duke. He married twice but had no children and was succeeded in the dukedom by his first cousin once removed. He was taken prisoner during the Second World War and became one of the Prominente in Colditz. Post-war, he became a county councillor in Berwickshire.

Francis Ronald Egerton, 7th Duke (1940–), only son of Cyril Egerton (1905–1992) and first cousin once removed of the 6th Duke. He married

Victoria Williams and had two sons, the elder of whom, James, Marquis of Stafford, will succeed him in the dukedom. Both of his sons have only daughters.

**Westminster, Dukes of**

Hugh Lupus Grosvenor, KG, 1st Duke (1825–1899), eldest surviving son of Richard Grosvenor, 2nd Marquess of Westminster (1795–1869), created Duke of Westminster in 1874. He married twice, was widowed once, and had twelve children who survived infancy. His eldest son predeceased him and he was succeeded in the dukedom by his grandson. When he died he was thought to be the wealthiest man in Britain. A keen racing enthusiast, his horses won the Derby on four occasions.

Colonel Hugh ‘Bend’Or’ Richard Arthur Grosvenor, GCVO, DSO, 2nd Duke (1879–1953), only son of Victor Grosvenor, Earl Grosvenor (1853–1884), and grandson of the 1st Duke. He married four times and had three children; his only son died in childhood and he was succeeded in the dukedom by his first cousin. He was politically right-wing and prone to anti-Semitic rants. He had an affair with the fashion designer Gabrielle ‘Coco’ Chanel for a decade.

William Grosvenor, 3rd Duke (1894–1963), only son of Lord Henry Grosvenor (1861–1914) and first cousin of the 2nd Duke. He never married and was succeeded in the dukedom by his first cousin. He was brain-damaged at birth and known in the family as ‘Mad Billy’. He bred ducks and was not involved with the running of his family’s empire.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gerald Hugh Grosvenor, DSO, 4th Duke (1907–1967), eldest son of Lord Hugh Grosvenor (1884–1914) and first cousin of the 3rd Duke. He married Sally Perry but the marriage produced no children and he was succeeded in the dukedom by his younger brother. In 1963 he demolished the Alfred Waterhouse-designed family home of Eaton Hall in Cheshire and had a new building constructed by John Denny.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert George Grosvenor, DL, 5th Duke (1910–1979), younger brother of the 4th Duke. He married his second cousin the Hon. Viola Lyttelton and had three children, the second of whom succeeded him in the dukedom. He was known as ‘Pud’.

Major-General Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor, KG, CB, CVO, OBE, 6th Duke (1951–2016), only son of the 5th Duke. He married Natalia Phillips and had four children, the third of whom succeeded him as duke. He took on a huge number of charitable obligations, and at one time had in excess of 150 patronages.

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Hugh Richard Louis Grosvenor, DL, 7th Duke (1991–), only son of the 6th Duke. He married Olivia Henson in 2024. He is a godfather to Prince George.

#### **Winchester, Marquesses of**

Nigel George Paulet, 18th Marquess (1941–2016), eldest son of Cecil Paulet (1905–1961) and first cousin once removed of the 17th Marquess. He married Rosemary Hilton and had three children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He moved his family from Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) to South Africa in the early 1980s. Most of his contributions to House of Lords business focused on Africa. He was a humble man.

Christopher John Hilton Paulet, 19th Marquess (1969–), eldest son of the 18th Marquess. He married Christine Town and has two children, the second of whom, Michael, Earl of Wiltshire, will succeed him in the marquessate. He formerly played in a heavy metal band.

#### **Zetland, Marquesses of**

Lawrence Dundas, KT, 1st Marquess, (1844–1929), eldest surviving son of the Hon. John Dundas (1808–1866), created Marquess of Zetland in 1892. He married Lady Lilian Lumley and had four surviving children, the second of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He served as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. ‘Zetland’ is an old spelling of ‘Shetland’.

Major Lawrence John Lumley Dundas, KG, 2nd Marquess (1876–1961), eldest son of the 1st Marquess. He married Cicely Archdale and had five children, the eldest of whom succeeded him in the marquessate. He was appointed a Knight of the Garter in 1942 and was chairman of the National Trust for thirteen years from 1932.

Major Lawrence Aldred Mervyn Dundas, DL, 3rd Marquess (1908–1989), eldest son of the 2nd Marquess. He married Katherine Pike and had four children, the eldest of whom succeeded him as marquess. He played tennis at Wimbledon in the 1940s.

Lawrence Mark Dundas, DL, 4th Marquess (1937–), eldest son of the 3rd Marquess. He married Susan Chamberlain and had four children, the eldest of whom, Robin, Earl of Ronaldshay, will succeed him in the marquessate. He was a founding member of the British Horseracing Board.

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# Introduction

The turning circle is raked and the door open when I arrive at Lady Rosemary Muir's house, off a winding country lane outside Windsor Great Park. She directs me to a suitable spot to park my car; I try hard not to reverse into anything – or her. She is a sprightly ninety-two, tall, smiling, with a firm handshake. We go to the sitting room, just off the hall, where a portrait of her grandmother Consuelo Vanderbilt is displayed on an easel. The ticking of a clock is all that disturbs the hushed atmosphere. Later, her dog will come in from her kennel, craving fuss. It will be politely denied her.

Rosemary Muir is one of the last survivors of the old aristocratic world – one of butlers and French chefs, of dressing gongs sounded before dinner, of deference and *noblesse oblige*. Today all that sounds almost impossibly remote. To her, though, it is just how things were and how things were done not so long ago.

She was born Lady Rosemary Mildred Spencer-Churchill on 24 July 1929, the fourth child and third daughter of John 'Bert' Spencer-Churchill, Marquess of Blandford, a godson of Edward VII, and his wife the Hon. Mary Cadogan. Mary, a granddaughter of George Cadogan, 5th Earl Cadogan, the owner of the Cadogan estate in London's Chelsea, came from a line of society women.<sup>1</sup> Known as 'the General' by her husband and regarded as someone who could pass 'for the great [first Duke of] Marlborough himself', she proved to be a distant mother but an efficient, ruthless organiser of people and things – a typical English rose even

down to the thorns'.<sup>2</sup> Bert was the son of Charles 'Sunny' Spencer-Churchill, 9th Duke of Marlborough,<sup>3</sup> and his first wife, the American heiress Consuelo Vanderbilt, who had been pushed by her mother into what turned out to be a very unhappy marriage. 'I know she was very rich but she had wonderful taste and she was fantastic-looking,' says Rosemary of her grandmother. 'I remember meeting an old woman who told me that Consuelo used to come down in a carriage dressed in fur from top to bottom, and they thought a saint had arrived. She was worshipped.'

Sunny, for his part, was a model duke of the paternalistic variety. A member of the Privy Council, sometime Mayor of Woodstock, and Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire for almost twenty years, he was generous in his response to a continuous flow of requests for help and money, despite the fact that, although they were dukes, the Marlboroughs were not exactly flush with funds.<sup>4</sup> But he was also a difficult man – a loner wont to stalk around the house in a white suit, damaged by his unhappy childhood and weighed down by his ducal inheritance.<sup>5</sup> One day in the early 1930s, he arranged for his grandchildren to line up in the hall at his home, Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, to receive a present. They were, naturally, excited. In the event Sunny didn't appear. Instead, he sent his butler down with a silver salver on which lay four small eggs. "With His Grace's compliments," said the butler, solemnly handing each child one hard-boiled plover's egg.<sup>6</sup> When Bert was born in 1897 – displacing his first cousin once removed, the future prime minister Winston Churchill, in the line of ducal succession – Sunny commissioned a life-size bronze of the baby, gave a ball at Blenheim and ordered a salute to be fired from the palace roof. Bert would grow up to be very tall: 'in scale to the great Palace and park at Blenheim', as a friend put it, writing in *The Times*, following his death in 1972.<sup>7</sup> He would also acquire a tendency to end every other sentence with the word 'what'.

While Bert and Mary awaited their promotion to the dukedom and Blenheim, they made their lives at Lowesby Hall, a Queen Anne house near Leicester, and it was here that their daughter

Rosemary spent her early years. It was a regimented, if comfortable life. Regular fire drills were held, during which dogs, nannies and children were shot down a canvas chute to the grass below. ‘Somebody stood at the top saying “you’re next”, so nobody could refuse to go down,’ Rosemary remembers. Contact with her parents was restricted to brief encounters in the morning and after tea. While the adults entertained guests – including the Prince of Wales in 1925 – or hunted with the Quorn, the children roamed the countryside or visited the home farm. Rosemary recalls that this – and indeed, the estate as a whole – was run by an Irishman called Charlie Clarke,<sup>8</sup> a friend of Bert and Mary’s who was wont to make up poems. One of them was about Bert: ‘scratching his bottom and picking his nose, always a marquess wherever he goes’. Rosemary was given a donkey, ‘with one of those old-fashioned saddles, a box that you sat in’.

The family spent time in London, too, and their town residence from April 1928 was 27 Hill Street, a large house on the corner of Chesterfield Hill in Mayfair. Here Mary would host committee meetings for her various charitable endeavours. The family dogs – usually lurchers – joined them from Lowesby. Rosemary recalls visits to Hyde Park with her nanny, during which the dogs would chase rabbits. ‘When we went back to Hill Street, Nanny used to say to the policeman, “The dogs are still in the park,” and he’d say, “That’s alright, Nanny, I’ll see that they cross the road.” He’d stop the traffic to let them across.’ Dogs loomed large in the Blandford family’s life. Rosemary recalls an occasion at Lowesby when she spotted a footman with a towel on his arm and a dish in his hand, heading towards one of the dogs, Chaz, who had given birth to puppies in the hollow of a tree about a hundred yards from the front of the house. ‘I must have said to him, “Where are you going with that dish?” and he said, “I’m going to feed Chaz.” We traipsed down there together and there was Chaz with her puppies. He gave her her dinner and then we came back again. The dog didn’t come to the house, you took the dog’s dinner down to the dog.’

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In 1934, when Rosemary was four years old, her grandfather Sunny Marlborough died, and the Blandfords left Lowesby for Blenheim, morphing into the Marlboroughs as they did so.<sup>9</sup> ‘It was rather a shock, I’ll admit,’ Bert recalled later. ‘I’d known it would come to me, but the suddenness was disturbing, to say the least.’<sup>10</sup> He was self-conscious about his position, acutely aware of the weight of the legacy. He also knew that times were changing. ‘He gave a speech at the beginning of the war saying things will never be the same again, and he was right,’ says his daughter. ‘I was too young then to understand, but there was always the worry of what was going to happen. He knew that he was the incumbent for his life and he shouldn’t be the one that was going to get rid of it – and anyway he couldn’t, as there has to be an Act of Parliament before you can sell Blenheim<sup>11</sup> – so all of that hung very heavily on him. He realised that everybody wanted better housing and better living standards, and all of that had to be paid for somehow. There just wasn’t enough money on an estate like Blenheim to do that.’

In the meantime, life continued in the strictly organised way it had done for decades. ‘Everything was done to the minute,’ Rosemary remembers. ‘When I came in from riding with my father, the butler would be standing in the hall ready to ring the gong, and I would say, “Please, Mr Taylor, don’t ring the gong until I come downstairs,” and he would say, “I ring the gong at quarter-past one, m’lady, and that’s it.” I used to go into the nursery where Nanny would be having her lunch on a tray, and I would say, “Nanny, will you help me pull off my jodhpurs?” And she’d say, “I certainly will not. Pull them off yourself, I’m having my lunch.” I’d struggle with these things and literally did my skirt up coming down the stairs. You would never have gone down for lunch in your riding stuff, never! You would have been sent straight back upstairs to change.’

As at Lowesby, contact with her parents was limited – certainly by the standards of today. When one of the governesses the family had successively engaged left during the war, Rosemary remembers, ‘My mother and father had completely forgotten that I even

existed. I appeared after measles or something, having been isolated somewhere, and they thought, what are we going to do with Rosemary?’ Their immediate solution was to send her to Wychwood School in Oxford – one that involved her having to cycle part of the way (with gas mask to hand) and then catch a bus. She lasted a term before her mother ‘pulled herself together’ and found another governess. Back at home she learned to observe air-raid checklists, typed on wartime thirty-gram Blenheim writing paper.

As for Mary Marlborough – who on one occasion during the war was mistaken by a visiting Polish general for an English one, before she surprised him by taking out a powder puff and some lipstick – she generally started the day with breakfast in bed. There she would go through the Blenheim menu for the day. When Rosemary came in to say good morning, her mother would greet her with a remark such as: ‘You look like an owl sitting in an ivy bush,’ and would then dispatch her post haste to take ‘the book’ to the chef. The food, she recalls, was ‘delicious but plain – English cooking, none of this froth, with nasturtiums on top. It’s so unnecessary. We had roast beef on Sunday and cottage pie on Monday, like seventy-five per cent of the rest of the populace.’ Did the family ever cook for themselves? ‘Cooking! You must be joking! My mother didn’t know how to boil an egg, she wouldn’t have known what to do with it.’ Even the meals the family ate on their caravanning holidays relied on catering staff: ‘I’ve got a picture of the footmen loading the caravans,’ Rosemary says. Mary Marlborough’s great indulgence was the Crunchie bar, which Rosemary reckons her sister must have introduced her to, since Mary herself, she points out, ‘wouldn’t have been into a sweet shop’. In the years before Mary’s death in 1961, the holiday caravan was often stuffed with them.

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That, of course, was then – in the days when the aristocracy boasted prime ministers, generals and thought-leaders among

their number, when they enjoyed privilege and wealth, when they didn't have to work for a living – or, at least, didn't have to take paid employment. Today, they are less the owners of vast estates than the managers of them. They are also financiers, entrepreneurs, businesspeople and lawyers. Rosemary's parents wouldn't have thought of concealing their noble lineage and were proud of it. Today's aristocrats, by contrast, are more guarded. They often hide away from their titles – or, at least, disguise them – insisting they be called by their first names. 'It is slowly happening that society will care about class far less,' says Archie Kennedy, Earl of Cassillis, the heir of David Kennedy, 9th Marquess of Ailsa. 'My [future] children could call themselves whatever they like and not feel slightly guilty and like they're being snobs because people would understand that people are just people . . . I don't really feel like I deserve a place in the annals of history just because I have a title,' he adds. 'I don't think there is necessarily a role to fill just because you have a title.'

That doesn't mean, though, that the hereditary peerage – who range from ancient Plantagenet-era families, through the descendants of Victorian industrialists, to the more recently ennobled – have parted company altogether with the privileged lifestyle of their ancestors. Even today, there remain those who can afford to live in a manner their forebears would have approved of, with a large country house, drivers and housekeepers, staff who call them by their titles, and estates where they can indulge their love of field sports. As former *Tatler* editor Kate Reardon says, 'There is still a large percentage of the current aristocracy leading broadly Edwardian lives, people who would still, when they were in town, have lunch at White's or Wilton's.' As a class they may not have the money and the influence they once enjoyed, but money and influence – if concealed – are nevertheless still there. There may have been a decline, but there has not yet been a fall.

As I hope to show in the chapters that follow, there is also still a definably aristocratic way of approaching the world, whether it's in the nature of their family life, the choice of school for their children, or in their political outlook. And that 'aristocratic way' has proved

remarkably resilient and slow to alter. I've met modern-day peers who, to all intents and purposes, tick in much the same way as their parents and grandparents. I have encountered stories about aristocrats from the recent past that read like echoes of a much earlier age. Changes there have definitely been, and continue to be, but not at the same pace – and often not at the same intensity – as the changes that society as a whole has experienced.

My guiding principle has been to focus on the hereditary peerage from the end of the Second World War to the present day. Inevitably, though, it's sometimes been necessary to dig further into the past: to show, for example, when and why aristocratic estates started to decline or how particular family crises came about. Throughout, I have observed the work of earlier historians of the peerage, but I have also drawn heavily on the hundreds of interviews that contemporary peers and members of their families have been kind enough to give me. These have filled out and immeasurably enriched the various aspects of the peerage that I have sought to explore and understand: their changing relationships with their houses and estates, the shifting nature of their influence on society, and their social and inner lives.

\* \* \*

Before I go any further, it's probably as well to say a little about *who* the aristocracy are.

At the time of writing, the hereditary peerage comprises 793 families possessing titles that can be passed down to the next generation. (This book does not incorporate the hereditary knights of the baronetage, another 983 families.<sup>12</sup>) Not all of those I interviewed regard themselves as aristocrats. Robin Byron, 13th Baron Byron, for example, argued that he doesn't fit the definition since: '[T]he aristocracy are only those peers who still have land and a historic estate, and those people who don't really need to work. They may work, and they may have very successful careers, but they also have a few thousand acres in the background.' The

fact remains, though, that his title was created in 1643, and he is the thirteenth possessor of it, so, unwilling though he may feel to be regarded as a *landed* aristocrat, he remains, in my view, an aristocrat.

At the top of the pyramid are the twenty-four dukes. After them come the thirty-four marquesses, and then the 188 earls, the 108 viscounts, and the 439 barons. The vast majority of these titles can pass only through the male line, for reasons I shall explain later.

The title 'duke' derives from the Latin *dux* ('leader') and was originally the preserve of the sovereign: indeed, William the Conqueror was also Duke of Normandy. The first use of duke as a peerage title came in 1337 when Edward III made his son, the Black Prince, Duke of Cornwall. A century later, in 1448, Sir William de la Pole, 1st Marquess of Suffolk, became the first duke not to be a member of, or closely related to, the royal family when he was promoted to his dukedom. The ducal heyday came much later, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. By this time, dukes were, and were expected to be, major forces in the land with lifestyles to match – alarmingly and ruinously so in some cases. The journalist Ernest Sackville Turner described how a ducal title during this era ‘... unmistakably conveyed that here was a man who owned Belgravia, or Eastbourne or Ben Lomond . . . There he was, a most puissant and most excellent prince, and it was necessary to make the best of it. He had inherited a string of boroughs and was responsible for the votes of those who lived in them . . . If there was a forest going a-begging, he would surely wish to be made ranger of it, with a free house, and the privilege of presenting a buck now and then to his friends, and no questions asked if he helped himself to the timber from time to time. If his leanings were political, he would expect to be offered a government post sooner or later. And since he was a duke, he was liberally qualified to govern Ireland as Viceroy or to represent his country in Paris.’<sup>13</sup> His seat had to be a mansion, castle, or palace, ‘... supporting at least a hundred servants reached by a drive a mile long through a walled park with a thousand head of deer. The dwelling would

be on a slight eminence, reflected in water, with its outlook unimpaired by ugly villages.<sup>14</sup>

Marquesses form the second rank of the peerage, the first English marquess (albeit only for life) being Richard II's favourite, Robert de Vere, 9th Earl of Oxford, who was raised to this rank in 1385. Perhaps because the title (which derives from the Middle Latin *marcha*) was once used on the continent to delineate counts who guarded the marches, or borders, it's sometimes been regarded as a little too European, and therefore suspect. When, for example, early in the twentieth century, Queen Mary's brother Adolphus 'Dolly' Cambridge, formerly Prince Adolphus of Teck (and then Duke of Teck), swapped the family name for Cambridge in 1917, becoming Marquess of Cambridge, he complained that 'Marquess sounded French'.<sup>15</sup> Henry Lascelles, Viscount Lascelles, later 6th Earl of Harewood, who married Princess Mary, daughter of George V and Queen Mary, and who was encouraged by his father-in-law to accept a marquessate in 1922, had a different objection. As his son remembered: '[H]e told me once that the king had wanted to follow precedent over the husband of a monarch's daughter and make him a marquess, but he refused on the grounds that marquises [sic] died out quicker than any other title and he was keen to provide himself and his ancestors with heirs!'<sup>16</sup> The last marquessate created was in 1936 for Freeman Freeman-Thomas, 1st Earl of Willingdon, following the end of his viceregal tenure of India.

Earls possess the oldest titles in the peerage, the Old English *earl* being 'a man of noble birth or rank', according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*. After the Norman Conquest earls assumed a rank equivalent to that of the continental count in England, while in Scotland the title of earl incorporated the idea of the Gaelic *mormaer*, second in theory only to the King of Scots. After them come the viscounts: a bunch of titles that are either very ancient (Gormanston, the oldest, was created in 1478) or very recent (Whitelaw, for the former home secretary, was created in 1983). Over 60 per cent of them were created before 1900. As Roy Perrott put it in his 1968 book *The Aristocrats*, the viscounts are

‘... mostly politicians, retired and elevated from the House of Commons ... most of all they suffer from the cloak of anonymity which a title casts upon a man who was once reasonably well known.’<sup>17</sup> Finally there are the barons, possessors of a mixed bag of very old and very new titles – the oldest dating from 1264 (de Ros) and the newest from 1965 (Margadale). In England, barons were originally those who held land by the feudal tenure of ‘barony’ and were entitled to attend what became the English Parliament.

Inevitably, as the aristocracy has declined in importance, so the once jealously guarded distinctions between those five degrees of rank have largely vanished. Most non-aristocrats probably regard them as virtually interchangeable. For one peer who shall remain nameless, it is enough that when he starts his car it greets him with the salutation, ‘Good morning, Your Lordship.’

Most male members of the population stick to one name over the course of their lifetime. Among the hereditary peerage, however, names shift constantly, thanks to the convention of courtesy titles – ranks that are lower than the one held by the top tier of the family and that can be used by the heir and his eldest son (and occasionally daughter). Dukedoms can come with marquessates, earldoms, viscountcies and baronies too – though not always the whole set – and so those titles trickle down until barons just have ‘the Honourable’ to offer their children. The Duke of Buccleuch’s eldest son is traditionally styled Earl of Dalkeith, for example. But not *the* Earl of Dalkeith. You only get the ‘the’ when you are top of your family pyramid. The current Duke of Marlborough was born James Spencer-Churchill, Earl of Sunderland. He was promoted to Marquess of Blandford in 1972 when his grandfather Bert Marlborough died. In 2014 when his father John ‘Sunny’ Spencer-Churchill, 11th Duke of Marlborough, died he became the 12th Duke. His eldest son George is now styled Marquess of Blandford, and his younger son and daughter Lord Caspar and Lady Araminta Spencer-Churchill, since daughters of earls, marquesses and dukes are styled ‘Lady Jane Bloggs’ by courtesy.

Younger sons of marquesses and dukes are styled ‘Lord Joe