

Thomas Grey, 1st Marquess of Dorset

Thomas Grey, 1st Marquess of Dorset, 1st Earl of Huntingdon, 7th Baron Ferrers of Groby, KG (1455 – 20 September 1501^{[1][2]}) was an English nobleman, courtier and the eldest son of Elizabeth Woodville and her first husband Sir John Grey of Groby. Her second marriage to King Edward IV made her Queen of England, thus elevating Grey's status at court and in the realm as the stepson of the King.^[3] Through his mother's assiduous endeavours, he made two materially advantageous marriages to wealthy heiresses, the King's niece Anne Holland and Cecily Bonville, 7th Baroness Harington. By the latter he had 14 children.

Contents

Family

Career

Marriages and issue

Titles

Notes

References

External links

Ancestry

Depictions in fiction

Family

Thomas Grey was born in 1455 close to the Palace of Westminster, near the City of London. He was the elder son of Sir John Grey (c.1432-1461) of Groby in Leicestershire, by his wife Elizabeth Woodville, who later became queen consort to King Edward IV.

Career

His mother endeavoured to improve his estates by the conventional methods of their class and time, through his marriages and purchase of wardships.

On the death of his stepfather, Edward IV, and his 12-year-old half-brother, Edward V's, accession to the throne on 9 April 1483, Grey proved unable to maintain his family's position. It was not possible to arrange a Woodville regency. Internal fighting, particularly the long-established battle for ascendancy in Leicestershire between the Grey and Hastings families, now on the national stage, allowed Gloucester to seize power and usurp the throne. On 25 June 1483, an assembly of Parliament declared Richard III to be the legitimate king, and Thomas's uncle and brother, Anthony Woodville, 2nd Earl Rivers, and Richard Grey, respectively, were executed. Later in the summer, learning of the apparent murder of both his young half-brothers, Grey joined the Duke of Buckingham's rebellion against Richard III. When the rebellion failed he fled to Brittany to join Henry Tudor, the future Henry VII, who pledged to marry Grey's half-sister Elizabeth of York and heal the Yorkist/Lancastrian division.

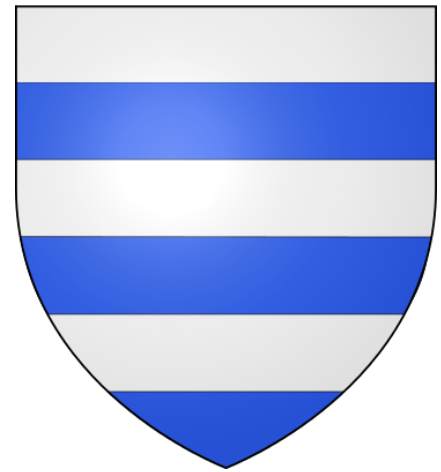
However, just before Henry and the Lancastrian army left to launch their ultimately successful invasion of England in August 1485, Grey heard rumours from England that his mother had come to terms with Richard III, and he was persuaded to desert Henry Tudor. He was intercepted at Compiègne on his way to England, and played no part in the invasion or

Thomas Grey	
 <div>Arms of Thomas Grey, 1st Marquess of Dorset, KG</div>	
Born	1455 <p>Groby Old Hall, Groby, Leicestershire</p>
Died	20 September 1501 (aged 46) <p>London</p>
Title	1st Marquess of Dorset <p>1st Earl of Huntingdon</p> <p>7th Baron Ferrers of Groby</p>
Spouse(s)	Lady Anne Holland <p>Cecily Bonville, 7th Baroness Harington</p>
Children	Lord Edward Grey <p>Anthony Grey</p> <p>Thomas Grey, 2nd Marquess of Dorset</p> <p>Sir Richard Grey</p> <p>Sir John Grey</p> <p>Leonard Grey, 1st Viscount Grane</p> <p>George Grey</p> <p>Cecily Grey</p> <p>Bridget Grey</p> <p>Dorothy Grey</p> <p>Elizabeth Grey, Countess of Kildare</p> <p>Margaret Grey</p> <p>Eleanor Grey</p> <p>Mary Grey</p>
Parent(s)	Sir John Grey of Groby <p>Elizabeth Woodville</p>

subsequent overthrow of Richard III. Grey was instead confined to Paris, as security for the repayment of a loan made to Henry Tudor by the French government, unable to return home until Henry VII was safely installed as king of England.

Thereafter Henry VII took good care to keep his Queen's half-brother under control and Grey was not permitted to recover his former influence. Thomas Grey was confined in the Tower in 1487 during Lambert Simnel's rising and not released until after the House of Tudor victory in the Battle of Stoke Field. Though he accompanied the King on his expedition to France in 1492, he was obliged to commit himself in writing to ensure he did not commit treason. He was permitted to assist in suppression of the Cornish rising in 1497.

Thomas Grey, Marquess of Dorset, died in London on 20 September 1501, aged about 48, and was buried in the collegiate church of Astley, Warwickshire. His wife survived him and married Grey's cousin, Henry Stafford, later Earl of Wiltshire.



Arms of Grey of Groby: *Barry of six argent and azure*

Marriages and issue

His mother sought to make provision for him by marriage to wealthy heiresses. He married firstly, at Greenwich in October 1466, Lady Anne Holland (1461^[4]-c.1474), the only daughter of Henry Holland, 3rd Duke of Exeter, and Anne of York. His mother-in-law was the second child and eldest surviving daughter of Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York, and Cecily Neville, thus sister to his mother's second husband King Edward IV.

After Anne Holland died young without issue, Thomas married secondly, by papal dispensation 5 September 1474,^[5] Cecily Bonville, 7th Baroness Harington of Aldingham and 2nd Baroness Bonville, the wealthiest heiress in England.^[6] Cecily Bonville, born in 1461, was the daughter and heiress of William Bonville, 6th Baron Harington, by his wife Katherine Neville, daughter of Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury.^[5] Katherine was sister to the late Earl of Warwick and thus aunt to his daughters.

By his second wife Grey had seven sons and seven daughters:^[5]

- Lord Edward Grey, eldest son and heir, who predeceased his father, and was buried in the church of St Clement Danes, London. He married Anne (née Jerningham), daughter of Sir Edward Jerningham (d. 6 January 1515) of Somerleyton, Suffolk, by Margaret Bedingfield (d. 24 March 1504), by whom he had no issue. After his death she remarried four times, firstly to a husband surnamed Berkeley; secondly to Henry Barley (d. 12 November 1529) of Albury, Hertfordshire;^[7] thirdly to Sir Robert Drury; and fourthly to Sir Edmund Walsingham.^{[8][9][10][11][3][12]}
- Anthony Grey, who predeceased his father.
- Thomas Grey, 2nd Marquess of Dorset (22 June 1477 – 22 June 1530), who married firstly Eleanor St John, by whom he had no issue, and secondly Margaret Wotton, widow of William Medley, esquire, and daughter of Sir Robert Wotton by Anne Belknap, daughter of Henry Belknap esquire, by whom he had four sons, including Henry Grey, 1st Duke of Suffolk, father of Lady Jane Grey, and four daughters.^[13]
- Sir Richard Grey, who married Florence Pudsey. He is mentioned in the will of his brother, Sir John Grey.^{[5][14]}
- Sir John Grey, who married firstly Elizabeth Catesby, widow of Roger Wake (d. 16 May 1504) of Blisworth, Northamptonshire, and daughter of Sir William Catesby, and secondly Anne Barley or Barlee (d. 1557 or 1558), widow of Sir Robert Sheffield of Butterwick, Lincolnshire, Speaker of the House of Commons. Grey apparently had no issue by either of his wives, as his will dated 3 March 1523 makes no mention of children. After Grey's death his widow, Anne, married Sir Richard Clement of Ightham Mote, Kent.^{[15][16]}
- Leonard Grey, 1st Viscount Grane (c.1490 – 28 June 1541),^[17] According to Richardson, Grey married firstly Elizabeth Arundel, widow of Sir Giles Daubeney, and secondly Eleanor Sutton, daughter of Edward Sutton, 2nd Baron Dudley by Cecily Willoughby, daughter and coheiress of Sir William Willoughby; however according to Lyons it is unclear whether Grey ever married.^{[15][18][19]} He is mentioned in the will of his brother, Sir John Grey.^[14] He served as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
- George Grey, in holy orders. He is mentioned in the will of his brother, Sir John Grey.^{[5][14]}
- Cecily Grey (d. 28 April 1554), who married John Sutton, 3rd Baron Dudley.^[15]
- Bridget Grey,^[5] believed to have died young.
- Dorothy Grey (1480–1552), who married firstly Robert Willoughby, 2nd Baron Willoughby de Broke, by whom she had issue, and secondly William Blount, 4th Baron Mountjoy.^[15]
- Elizabeth Grey, who married Gerald FitzGerald, 9th Earl of Kildare.^[5]
- Margaret Grey, who married Richard Wake, esquire,^[5] She is mentioned, as 'Margaret Grey', in the will of her brother, Sir John Grey.^{[5][14]}
- Eleanor Grey (or "Elizabeth"^[20]) Grey (d. by December 1503) who married, as his first wife, Sir John Arundell (1474–1545) of Lanherne, Cornwall, Receiver General of the Duchy of Cornwall and "the most important man in the county".^[21]
- Mary Grey (1493 – 22 February 1538),^{[22][23]} who married Walter Devereux, 1st Viscount Hereford.^[5]

Titles

- Lord Astley, 1461–, inherited on the death of his father
- Earl of Huntingdon, 1471–1475, created for him but after acquiring the next it was surrendered to the King so the King might be able to give it to the Earl of Pembroke whose title the King wanted for his own son
- Lord Harington and Bonville in right of his (second) wife, 1474, his wife being unable to sit in Parliament
- Marquess of Dorset, 1475–, created for Thomas Grey 14 May 1475 (Whitsunday) in place of the re-possessed earldom of Huntingdon
- Lord Ferrers of Groby, 1483–, inherited on the death of his grandmother Elizabeth Ferrers.
- Attainted 1484 following the bid to oust Richard III
- After reversal of his attainder by Henry VII, styled himself marquess of Dorset, lord Ferrers of Groby, Bonville, and Harington

Notes

1. Cokayne 1916, pp. 418-19.
2. According to Richardson and Pugh he was born c.1455.
3. Pugh 2004.
4. Oxford, Bodleian Library MS Digby 57, fol. 2*r
5. Richardson II 2011, p. 304.
6. Lympstone: From Roman Rimes to the 17th Century. Retrieved 1 September 2011 (<http://www.britannia.com/lympstone/lympstone.html>)
7. Barley, Henry (1487-1529), of Albury, Hertfordshire, History of Parliament (<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/ember/barley-henry-1487-1529>) Retrieved 12 June 2013.
8. Richardson II 2011, p. 93.
9. Hyde 2004.
10. Campling 1937.
11. Challen 1963, pp. 5-9.
12. 'Anne Jerningham', *A Who's Who of Tudor Women: I-J*, compiled by Kathy Lynn Emerson to update and correct *Wives and Daughters: The Women of Sixteenth-Century England* (1984) (<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenI-J.htm>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100805063311/http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenI-J.htm>) 5 August 2010 at the Wayback Machine. Retrieved 10 June 2013.
13. Richardson II 2011, pp. 304-7.
14. Challen 1963, p. 6.
15. Richardson II 2011, pp. 304-6.
16. Challen 1963, pp. 5-7.
17. Richardson states that he was executed 28 July 1541.
18. Richardson IV 2011, pp. 50-1.
19. Lyons 2004.
20. As stated on the inscribed monumental brass of Sir John Arundell in St Columb Major Church, Cornwall (See: Jewers, Arthur John (ed.), *The registers of the parish of St. Columb Major, Cornwall, from the year 1539 to 1780*, London, 1881, Preface XI [1] (https://archive.org/stream/registersofparis00stco/registersofparis00stco_djvu.txt))
21. Byrne, Muriel St. Clare, (ed.) *The Lisle Letters*, 6 vols, University of Chicago Press, Chicago & London, 1981, vol.1Byrne, vol.1, p.307
22. "Mary Grey, Viscountess Of Hereford" (<https://www.geni.com/people/Mary-Grey-Viscountess-Of-Hereford/6000000007603613980>). *Geni*. Retrieved 29 August 2017.
23. "Grey of Dorset" (<http://www.tudorplace.com.ar/GREY5.htm#Mary%20GREY1>). *Tudor Place*. Retrieved 29 August 2017.

References

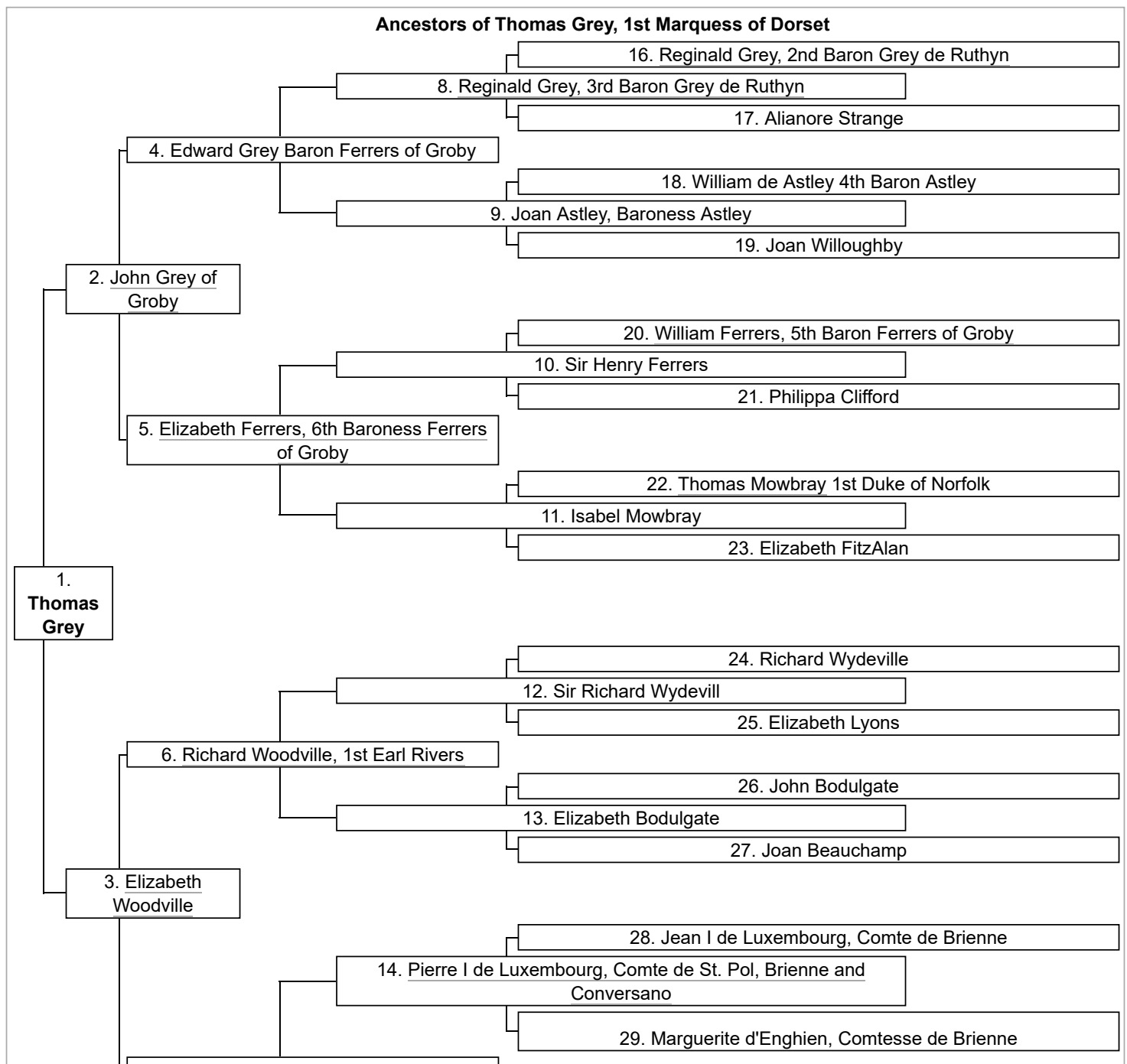
- Campling, Arthur (1937). "The History of the Family of Drury" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20130719023601/http://www.genealogysource.com/druryhistpt5.htm>). London. Archived from the original (<http://www.genealogysource.com/druryhistpt5.htm>) on 19 July 2013. Retrieved 11 June 2013.
- Challen, W.H. (January 1963). "Lady Anne Grey" (<http://nq.oxfordjournals.org/content/10/1.toc>). *Notes and Queries*. **10** (1): 5–9. Retrieved 11 June 2013.
- Cokayne, George Edward (1916). *The Complete Peerage, edited by H.A. Doubleday. IV*. London: St. Catherine Press. pp. 418–19.
- Hyde, Patricia (2004). "Drury, Sir Robert (b. before 1456, d. 1535)". *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (online ed.). Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/8097 (<https://doi.org/10.1093%2Fref%3Aodnb%2F8097>). (Subscription or UK public library membership (<http://www.oxforddnb.com/help/subscribe#public>) required.)

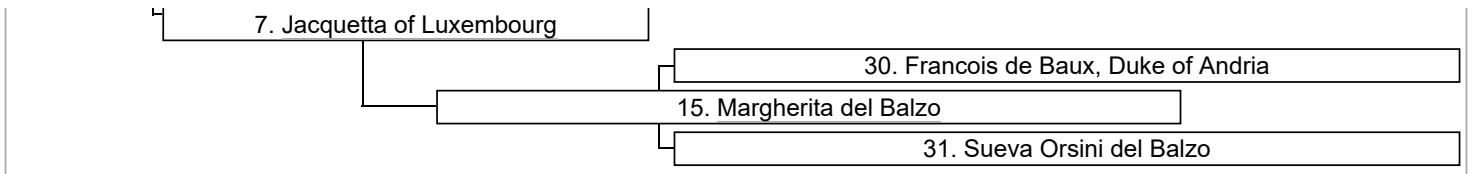
- Pugh, T.B. (2004). "Grey, Thomas, first marquess of Dorset (c.1455–1501)". *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (online ed.). Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/11560 (<https://doi.org/10.1093%2Fref%3Aodnb%2F11560>). (Subscription or UK public library membership (<http://www.oxforddnb.com/help/subscribe#public>) required.) The first edition of this text is available at Wikisource: "Grey, Thomas (1451-1501)". *Dictionary of National Biography*. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1885–1900.
- Richardson, Douglas (2011). Everingham, Kimball G., ed. *Magna Carta Ancestry: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families*. I (2nd ed.). Salt Lake City. ISBN 1449966373.
- Richardson, Douglas (2011). Everingham, Kimball G., ed. *Magna Carta Ancestry: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families*. II (2nd ed.). Salt Lake City. ISBN 1449966381.
- Richardson, Douglas (2011). Everingham, Kimball G., ed. *Magna Carta Ancestry: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families*. IV (2nd ed.). Salt Lake City. ISBN 1460992709.
- A Genealogical History of the Dormant, Abeyant, Forfeited, and Extinct Peerages of the British Empire by Sir Bernard Burke, 1866

External links

- Leigh Rayment's Peerage Pages (<http://www.leighrayment.com/>)

Ancestry





Depictions in fiction

Thomas Grey, 1st Marquess of Dorset, is depicted in Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

Peerage of England		
New creation	<u>Marquess of Dorset</u> 1475–1501	Succeeded by <u>Thomas Grey</u>
Preceded by <u>Elizabeth Ferrers</u> and <u>John Bouchier</u>	<u>Baron Ferrers of Groby</u> 1483–1501	

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Thomas_Grey,_1st_Marquess_of_Dorset&oldid=870050975"

This page was last edited on 22 November 2018, at 02:06 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.