

THOMAS ARUNDEL HOWARD

By Karen Anne LaClergue

This book is dedicated to Mary Fleming Blystone and Ruth Berdine  
for introducing me to this addictive search for our ancestors.

My thanks also go out to my readers

## FORWARD

Like many Howard immigrants to America, somewhere in our oral traditions, it becomes *known* that we were descended from royalty. Sometimes, during our research, we discover the tradition is related to the mother's line, not the Howard line; or we can trace back to an early female Howard line which later married into another Howard line and the tradition became garbled; most often the connection just cannot be found.

Once in a very long while, you stumble across a story that reaches across the centuries and makes you want a connection so badly you worry about making the facts fit your dreams: This is such a story. It transpired because my mother, Mary Virginia Fleming, and her aunt, Ruth Berdine wanted to know the ancestry of Ruth's mother, Arabell Howard.

They had traced Arabell's ancestry back to Obediah Howard, who died in 1804 in Kentucky. There were no actual records of his birth, but he first appears in the records of Orange County, North Carolina and there the trail ended. Obediah had been thoroughly investigated by many genealogists; and theories were as varied as there were researchers. No one had been able find a paper trail to any contemporary or ancestral Howard.

When I decided to honor my mother's request to find her immigrant ancestor, I had very little information. I had the research work on Obediah, was told we descended from royalty, and my mother's Great Uncle Howard had informed Clark Berdine that our ancestors came to America because "they would not bow down to that so and so." To my knowledge this last information had never been related to anyone other than my mother, and for a time I ignored it.

I began by looking through all the research I could find and I had a huge advantage. I had taken over The Howard Historian newsletter with all the back issues, books sent by readers, and miscellaneous genealogies. I had also come into genealogy at a time when ancestral data being uploaded to the internet was escalating. There was so much knowledge out there that it was overwhelming; but it was also a very exciting time to be researching your ancestry.

I explored the line of Edmund Howard and Margaret Dent of Somerset County, Maryland, hoped that Thomas Howard of St. Mary's County, Maryland would show promise, looked into the Howard's of Massachusetts and Connecticut, found Joshua Howard of Baltimore County, Maryland interesting but try as I might I could not seem to get further than the Opekon Valley of Virginia where the Gists/Howards settled at the same time our Breed ancestors were there. I checked out the Nansemund Howards, (James, Edward, John, Joseph and Stephen) but could get no further there either; I rejected them all. The last major group I looked into was the Mathew Howard line from Norfolk County, Virginia and Anne Arundel County, Maryland, which also seemed to go nowhere.

However, since I was already researching this line at the time I found out about the "would not bow down to that so and so." I decided to divert my research from America to England and see if I could find anything from the same time period, 1623-1638.

I set my criteria high. It would have to be a "royal" Howard otherwise I could not see where the bowing down would come in. I commenced by looking for a Duke of Norfolk between 1600 and 1638. There were none. Frustrated, I searched further back and the most recent duke

was Thomas Howard, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk. We were now in the mid 1500's and there were no more Duke's until the mid to late 1600's!

It was a big let down, but I kept coming back to the bow down part and decided to try again. I discovered a history rich in beheadings, in which the majority of subjects were actually very faithful to their kings and queens, but perhaps too sure of themselves and their own power.

As I traced this magnificent family, I found myself admiring them and ashamed of them in turn. I developed a longing to belong that I could not explain; I desperately wanted to be descended from this family. I found myself giving the sons of the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke nicknames: Bad Thomas, Belted Will and Saint Philip because of the prevalence of the names Williams and Thomas (of course, Belted Will and Saint Philip had already been named). For a long time I wanted it to be Belted Will and I must admit I did not want it to be Bad Thomas who, likely with the urgings of his wife, cheated the crown out of who knows how much money and was thrown out of the office of Lord Treasurer.

I was not sure how I felt about Saint Philip. I could not fathom spending 10 years in a prison and finding out the Queen had cruelly told me I had another daughter instead of the son and heir I craved. Then, when I lay dying from tainted food, had the gall to say she would let me see my son if I would betray my religion; the only thing that kept me sane during those long years.

But I could also see a little boy who spent 10 years of his life with a father in prison and never once getting to see him. What must he have felt, knowing his father chose his religion over

saying goodbye, or even hello.

As I pieced together this story, I found a possible connection to the colonies. This book is the result of seven years of research; my own and that of many fellow researchers. While I cannot name all of the people whose research helped me along the way, I want you to know that your diligence, perseverance and willingness to help others leaves a phenomenal resource to those just starting out.

I know there is a faction out there that demands absolutely nothing can be added to your ancestry for which you have no references. While I subscribe to this for the most part, there is a part of me that says; include it and note it as speculation. This speculation may move someone to find that tiny spec of truth which may be behind it, just as I did with those few words passed to my mother and apparently no one else: “They would not bow down to that so and so.”

## CHAPTER ONE: The Ducal Howards

“Sir, He was my crowned King. Let the authority of Parliament place the crown on that stake, and I will fight for it; so would I have fought for you, the same authority place the crown on your head.”  
**Thomas Howard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Norfolk**

Tracing the history of the Howards is a fascinating journey according to which theory you subscribe to. It can take you back to the reign of Henry I, or even further; to the invasion of the Britannia. These latter Howards were thought to be tall, blond haired, blue-eyed, Saxons who served under Edward the Conqueror.

The Howards who lived in the time of Henry I turned up in a book called *The Patrician*, where there is a curious note from William Dugdale, “Norray Principall Herald, and King of Arms.” He claims to have read a manuscript of which the English translation was “Lancaster Itinerary” by Richard Jones, of the Isle of Wight. Richard Jones claims that all the earls, barons, dukes, knights and other progeny of the famous Howards were originally from Howord Hall in Hundersfeld, in the parish of Ratchdale, Lancaster.

It then proceeds to give the descent from Osbert Howord de Howord. His son was Osbert, whose son was Orme, whose son was Peter Howard in the reign of King Henry IV; from here a cousin, Michael Howard takes over the lineage and the spelling is back to Howord. It continues with several generations of William’s son Henry and Henry’s son William and ends in 1786 with

a Radclyffe Howorth M.D. who died without heirs, leaving an estate in Hundersfield.<sup>1</sup>

The most interesting name in this lineage, for our purposes, is Theophilus, a name that surfaces in the late 1500's as the grandson of the Fourth Duke of Norfolk.

There is also some evidence to support the Saxon heritage theory.<sup>2</sup> "Howard's Memorials"<sup>3</sup> a book privately published in 1834 by Henry Howard of Corby Castle, Cumberland, England, mentions coins found in Beaworth in Hampshire in 1833. Among them were 35 that bore the name Howard printed in Saxon on the reverse side, as the mint master of Norwich at the time of Edward the Confessor.

The names Hauuard and Hauuart appear in the "Domesday book" for Yorkshire area also in the time of Edward the Confessor and is also spelled: Howard, Haward, Haeward, Howord, and Howarde.

The immigrant patron of these Howards was Fulch or Fulk who had a shield made in the shape of a heart which carried the arms of the early Howards; gul. a bend between six cross crosslets fitche arg. These arms are still used by the Dukes of Norfolk, with the addition for Flodden Field. Fulch's son, Alan Fitz-Jeffery, had a son by the name of William who took the name Wiggshall, in Freebridge Marshland, after the town he was born in. His son John, took the

---

<sup>1</sup> See Lineage Appendix I: Chapter I

<sup>2</sup> See Lineage Appendix II: Chapter I

<sup>3</sup> The Worthies of Cumberland, Henry Lonsdale, G. Routledge, 1867, 336 pp

name Heyward, Hauuard or Howard; the derivations of which have many meanings: hot ward: warden of the hall; hold ward: warden/keeper of the stronghold; hoch: high; ward: warden; hold: a favor; word: worthy; teut or of hold: hospitality; on the average, the Howard name is thought to mean the high or chief warden.

The eminent of these descendents was William Howard of Wighenhall, who was appointed a judge of the Court of Common Pleas about 1280. He was sworn chief justice of the Kings Bench and was constantly summoned to parliament during the time of Edward I.

Robert Howard, a descendent of William the judge, was father of John, the first Duke of Norfolk. John Howard received the title in right of his mother, Margaret Mowbray, great granddaughter of Thomas Plantagenet, son of Edward I.

John Howard, with his King, Richard III, fell in battle at Bosworth in 1485. His son, Thomas Howard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Norfolk, born in 1444, was also at Bosworth Field, forced to deliver his sword to the new king, Henry VII, who berated him for fighting on the side of the “usurper” to which Thomas replied “Sir, He was my crowned King. Let the authority of Parliament place the crown on that stake, and I will fight for it; so would I have fought for you, the same authority place the crown on your head.”<sup>4</sup> Thomas Howard was attainted, deprived of his earldom and imprisoned for three years in the Tower before the new King freed him and restored to him the title of Earl of Surrey. It was not until 1514 that he was created Duke of

---

<sup>4</sup> Nott, p. iv

Norfolk.

Henry VIII granted this second Duke an Augmentation of Honor to his coat of arms in commemoration of the success of the battle at Flodden Field, where the Scottish King was slain. It is an augmentation of the royal Scottish arms, with an arrow through the mouth of the lion.<sup>5</sup>

Thomas Howard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Norfolk, was the least likeable of all the early Dukes. He put on a show of extravagance, but was miserly with his own household. His first wife, daughter of Edward IV died before 1512, pre-deceased by their four young sons. He married secondly, Elizabeth Stafford and had two sons and a daughter. This Duchess of Norfolk separated from him in 1534 leaving Kenninghall to be run by Bess Holland, her husband's mistress, the daughter of his steward at Kenninghall.

The last and 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century was Thomas Howard, born 10 March 1538 at Kenninghall Palace, five weeks earlier than expected. His father was the famous Poet Earl, Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey. Some think Henry Howard was foolish, others too proud for his own good; the only thing we know for sure is that he was be-headed in the last year of the reign of Henry VIII, 1547, for aspiring to the crown by adding the arms of the king to his shield.

By right of descent, Henry Howard could display the coat of arms of Edward the Confessor with the lions of England and had been doing so for years with the authority of the Heralds. However, because it was discovered that he had quartered the arms of Edward in the

---

<sup>5</sup> See illustration in Appendix II: Chapter I

first quarter instead of the second, the information put him in the Tower and was used as evidence to condemn him.<sup>6</sup>

Henry's father, the aforementioned 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Norfolk, was imprisoned and held in the Tower for several years after his son was arrested. He too confessed to using the quartered arms incorrectly, but apparently only in private and his crime was not deemed as serious. Where his son was be-headed for his arrogance, Thomas was saved by the death of King Edward and a new government under Edward's sister, Queen Mary, who came to power 19 July 1553. The Duke was released from the Tower at nearly 80 years of age and took his place beside Mary, daughter of Henry VIII and Henry's first wife, Catherine of Aragon, as Earl Marshall.

The younger Thomas was eight years old when his father was executed, his grandfather imprisoned, and Kenninghall Palace confiscated by the crown. [His mother, Frances Vere daughter of John Vere, Earl of Oxford, remarried and was no longer deeply involved in her children's lives. Her husband was Thomas Steynings, of Suffolk to whom she bore a daughter.<sup>7</sup>] Five years after he left Kenninghall, Thomas was to return to those grounds with his grandfather. He grew up to become the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk under Queen Elizabeth.

The ancestry of King James is a tangled web, and understanding this is critical to why he ended up on the throne of England, and though his story does not start here his mother's does.

---

<sup>6</sup> See APPENDIX III: CHAPTER I

<sup>7</sup> See APPENDIX IV: CHAPTER I

Henry VII had one son, Henry VIII and two daughters, Margaret and Mary. Margaret was wed to King James of Scotland, who died at Flodden Field shortly after the birth of his son, James V. She married second Archibald Douglas, Earl of Angus, by whom she had one daughter Margaret Douglas. Margaret Douglas married Matthew Stewart, Earl of Lennox and by him had two sons, Henry and Charles.

In the meantime, Margaret Tudor's son by King James, James V married Mary of Guise of France. Shortly before the King's death they had a daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary of Guise continued to rule in Scotland, but offered her daughter as wife to Francis, heir to the French throne, and sent her to live in the French court at a very young age.

When news of the death of Mary of Guise, reached France, Henry II began to proclaim his daughter-in-law, Mary, Queen of Scotland, England and Ireland. He ordered her to quarter the royal arms of England with her own.

As Hereditary Marshall, Thomas Howard, now 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk, received the escutcheon<sup>8</sup> of Mary's arms and consulted with officers of the Heralds' College. They concluded that Mary "cannot or ought not to bear any escutcheon of the arms of England."<sup>9</sup> Mary was 17 years old at the time, and Thomas was England's only remaining duke.

Thomas Howard's first child, Philip, was born to him at the age of 19, on 28 June 1557. It

---

<sup>8</sup> See APPENDIX ? DICTIONARY

<sup>9</sup> Thomas Howard, Fourth Duke of Norfolk by Neville Williams pp. 52, 53

was also to mark one of the first tragedies in his family. His wife, Mary FitzAlan, died at the age of 17; within eight weeks of the birth of her son. She was the daughter of Henry FitzAlan, Earl of Arundel and his wife Katherine Grey, daughter of Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset.

Margaret Audley, a childless widow of Henry Dudley, became Thomas' second wife soon after the death of Mary FitzAlan. She was a cousin to Thomas and 17 years old at the time of their engagement. He sent to the Pope to get dispensation to marry her, as was common practice in those days when marrying a cousin. The Pope was dilatory in his reply and to complicate matters, Queen Mary, a Catholic, died and was succeeded by her half sister and Thomas' cousin, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was a staunch guardian of the Church of England, which did not believe in papal authority. Because of these circumstances, it was thought the Pope might not give dispensation and Thomas married Margaret quietly in November of 1558.

Margaret bore him two sons and two daughters and died at the age of 24, three weeks after the birth of her fourth child and second son, William Howard; leaving Thomas again a widow with five young children.

Thomas Dacre had been ill for several months before his death, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk enquired into the wardship of the heir, George Dacre, then five, and his sisters. The large estate would guarantee an income of 200 marks for George's education in his younger years, and when he reached the age of 14 the amount would increase to 200 lbs per year. Thomas was granted the wardship twelve weeks after the death of Thomas Dacre; but it would not be completely settled for another two years.

Surprisingly, in addition to the wardship he quietly courted and won the hand of Elizabeth Leyburne, the widow of Thomas Dacre. They were married on 29 January of 1657, after informing the Queen of their plans only a few days earlier. They retired to Kenninghall, bringing with them her mother, Lady Leyburne. They also brought with them a Roman Catholic chaplain, for both Elizabeth and her mother were devout Catholics.

With wardship, the duke also had the right to decide whom the children would wed. It was with this in mind that he set about to tie up the Dacre and Howard estates by marrying the Dacre children to his own, a practice which had been going on for many years.

On 4 September 1567, Elizabeth too, died in childbirth, the baby dying with her. At the age of 29, the duke had lost three wives and now had nine young children dependent on him.

Records of the time indicate Queen Elizabeth was looking for someone she felt would have no designs on her crown to marry Mary, Queen of Scots. Who better than her own cousin: Thomas Howard.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Duke was one of the most well liked figures of nobility in his time and perhaps his biggest fault lay not in his own pursuit of the hand of Mary, but the fickle nature of those who wanted to see a Catholic Queen on the throne. Their scheming with Mary and her French associates to put her there, even now has two factions; those who believe the Duke was implicated in this scheme by his own attempts to ignore what was obviously going on around him and those who believe he participated wholly and fully in a plot to overthrow his Queen. It was knowledge of at least some of this plot that precipitated his arrest and confinement in the

Tower of London. The evidence was shocking, but it is hard to believe that he would not have honored the Howard creed of fighting for his King or Queen.

The notoriety of his “treason” and the claim he married Mary, Queen of Scots by proxy made him one of the most written about men of the Elizabethan age. There is more information known about him than any other individual of the time except the Royal family.

Though by no means completely innocent of the charges, which were to end his life at the age of 34, Thomas Howard, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk, staunchly denied any reports of treason.... “He was denied the privilege of council; and though no part of the charge which amounted to treason could be proved against him, he was found guilty, to the astonishment of all wise and unprejudiced persons, and the unspeakable regret of the nation in general.”<sup>10</sup>

Sentenced to die by beheading, he endeavored to handle all the legalities concerning his children, asking that they be put under the care of William Cecil, Lord Burghley. He was apprehensive that the wardship of his second son, Thomas, would attract the wrong type of guardian, while William, being the youngest with little chance to inherit the estates, was not likely to be requested as a ward. Thomas asked his oldest son, Philip, to act as William’s father as well as brother. He worried about his mother, the Lady Staynings, and wanted her sent to the

---

<sup>10</sup> A Complete History of England, From the Descent of Julius Caesar to the Treaty of Aix LaChapelle, 1748, Containing the Transactions of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Three Years, by T Smollett, MD; The Third Edition, Volume The Sixth, pg 289

country so she would not be in London when the edict was carried out.

His message to Nann, Anne Dacre , by now the wife of Philip, was especially poignant. “Well-beloved Nann, that hath been as dear to me as if you had been mine own daughter, although considering this ill happ that is now chanced, you might have had a greater marriage than now your husband shall be; yet I hope you will remember that when you were married the case was for otherwise.....committing to your care mine own only daughter Megg, hoping that you will not be a sister-in-law to her, but rather a natural sister, yea, even a very mother, and that as I took care for the well-bestowing of you, so you will, when her years shall be fit for marriage, take care for the well bestowing of her...”<sup>11</sup> There were to be no more Dukes of Norfolk until the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

Over a hundred years after Thomas’ beheading, William Howard, Lord Stafford, a great grandson was to write: “...hee was married by proxie to the Queene of Scots, for the which hee was attainted, and beheaded, Queene Elizabeth pretending that it was done not onely with oute her cosent, but against her Commande.”<sup>12</sup> [See Chapter I, Appendix III]

---

<sup>11</sup> Thomas Howard, Fourth Duke of Norfolk by Neville Williams pp 243, 244

<sup>12</sup> The Life, Correspondence & Collections of Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel by Mary F. S. Hervey pp. 463

## CHAPTER II: Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel

*“On such condition I cannot accept  
her majesty’s offers, and, if that be  
the cause in which I am to perish,  
sorry am I that I have but one life to  
lose.”*

*Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel*

Philip Howard was the first son of Thomas Howard, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk, and as such was heir to the ducal titles and lands. The marriage his father had arranged between him and Anne Dacre, oldest daughter and co-heir, with her sisters, to the lands of Thomas Dacre of Northern England, was consented to by Philip when he was twelve years old; at which point the two were wed.

After Queen Elizabeth had Thomas Howard arrested and taken to the Tower of London, the Duke feared she would find a way to invalidate the marriage because it had been performed before Philip came to the full age of consent. Therefore, in 1571, when Philip and Anne were both fourteen, a second ceremony was performed to ensure the contract could not be broken.

As with most young marriages of the time, the couple did not live together. Philip was expected to finish his education first, at Cambridge, according to his father’s wishes. Though, by some accounts, he did not spend his time wisely, he was awarded an M.A. in November of 1576.

From there he proceeded to the court of Queen Elizabeth who did not like her young men to be married, or if they were, the marriage could not be convivial. Philip had no trouble

following the Queen's mandate; in fact he "lived openly with some lady of the Court, whose name has not transpired."

Philip spent money lavishly, running up debts, especially through his extravagant entertainment of the Queen at Kenninghall, while his neglected wife was invited to live at Arundel Castle by Philip's grandfather, Henry Fitzallen, Earl of Arundel. The Earl became so incensed with Philip's behavior he wrote him out of his will not long before he died in 1580.

The arrest and inquisition in 1581 of Edmund Campion, a priest, who though tortured, was exhorted to participate in a forum on religion. Campion was not allowed the use of books nor was he informed beforehand about the subject to be discussed; while the Anglican Divines had both books and plenty of time to research their material.

Weak and exhausted, Campion's brilliant logic and reasoning caused them to abort the forum; though it was already too late to undo the damage caused by their arrogance. It is believed that Campion's courage and knowledge caused Philip, one of those listening, to question not only what he was doing at court, but to reflect on his religion and his relationship with his wife.

At about the same time, his uncle, Lord Lumley, who had married Jane Fitz-Alan, first daughter of the Earl of Arundel, made over to Philip "his life interest in the castle and honour of Arundel."<sup>13</sup> Philip's claim to both was admitted by the Queen's Council, though he was not restored in blood until 18 March 1581.

---

<sup>13</sup> Dictionary of National Biography, Macmillan, 1885-1900, p 53

With the Queen's suspicions aroused, Philip made amends with his wife, Anne Dacre, and joined her, likely at Arundel Castle. The Queen flew into a rage at Philip's supposed show of disrespect, and promptly had a pregnant Anne arrested for recusancy. She was confined for a year in the house of Sir Thomas Shirley at Wiston, in Sussex. 'In Wiston House was born Elizabeth, only daughter of Philip Earl of Arundel, soon after his first confinement in the Tower...' <sup>14</sup>

With his wife in immuration at Wiston House, Philip decided he would fare better on the continent. He was finishing his packing, his passage already booked by his secretary, when it was announced that the queen intended to honor him with a visit.

Queen Elizabeth came to his home, accepted his hospitality, then told him he was under house arrest and would be required to provide food and lodging for his guards. The Queen, in her haste to arrest Philip, had jumped the gun. He had not yet conformed to the Roman Catholic religion and her charges were without foundation.

He was set free, but for months after he was allowed back at court, Philip had to endure the Queen's contempt as well as harassment by other members of the court; being called in for questioning numerous times, held at his house, and charged by the "council to be of the religion which was accounted odious and dangerous to her estate.." <sup>15</sup> These actions confirmed his desire

---

<sup>14</sup> Find quote

<sup>15</sup>

to convert to Catholicism and he decided to make another attempt to flee the country.

This time he was betrayed by the master of the vessel he sought to leave England in. On 25 April 1585 Philip found himself in the Tower, a letter he had left for his Queen stating his reasons for leaving, now being presented as evidence against him on the charge of treason. He was interrogated by the Privy Council and again they were unable to find anything with which to condemn him.<sup>16</sup>

A year was to pass before he was brought up on three charges: attempting to leave the realm without license from the Queen, that he had been reconciled to the Church of Rome, and that he was plotting with foreign powers in order to be restored as Duke of Norfolk. Undoubtedly wondering how foreign powers could help him get back a decidedly English title, he replied “that he never so much as heard thereof until the present time.” Since there could be no evidence to something so irrational, the last charge was dropped.

Philip did, however, agree to the first two charges as they could in no way be construed as treason and he defended himself so well that they were unable to secure that charge. Instead, he was fined 10,000 lbs and “imprisoned during the Queen’s pleasure.”<sup>17</sup>

He was returned to the Tower where he resided when Anne gave birth to a son, whom she named Thomas, but the Queen’s anger was still so great she refused to notify Philip of his

---

<sup>16</sup>

<sup>17</sup> The Dukes of Norfolk, A Quincentennial History by John Martin Robinson pp24

heir, telling him instead that he had fathered another daughter.

A war was expected between England and Spain in which the outcome, no matter which way it went, would have a dreadful outcome for those of the Catholic faith. Prayers were rampant during the time leading up to the battle, both for and against an English win. A spy, who was already imprisoned at the Tower, was sent to encourage Philip's involvement in these prayers and masses for the safety of the Spanish fleet. Some researchers contend the spy was actually a prosecutor who set up the masses and prayers, then took evidence to the prosecution, an act that was illegal at that time.

As a result of this evidence, one of the major crimes Philip was charged with was praying for the defeat of the English navy, while what he had actually suggested was a twenty four hour prayer to ward off the threat of danger to fellow Catholics, added to this was his fondness for his godfather, King Philip of Spain, and a perfect opportunity arose for delivering the earl of Arundel into the hands of his accusers.

Two priests who had been broken, likely by previous tortures, needed only the threat of torture to get them to tell interrogators everything they knew or thought the interrogators wanted to know about the Earl's prayers.

In their hast to convict the Earl of treason, they failed to take into consideration his recent conversion to the Catholic faith, and his lack of knowledge of any difference in types of masses or prayers being requested. When the earl, in his defense, claimed no knowledge and rigidly denied any prayers for the success of the Spaniards, saying only that in some form he had

“wished well to the Spaniards,” but in a form which was not detrimental to his own country.

It was for this flimsy charge that Philip was to be sentenced to death, a sentence that was never lifted...and never carried out. After almost 10 years in the Tower, Philip became sick and requested permission to see his brother William and his Uncle Henry,<sup>18</sup> The Queen refused. She had, however, over the years made mention to friends that he should be allowed to see his wife and children; somehow he had learned he had a son. He wrote to her again, asking fulfillment of this request. Her reply; that he repudiate his religion, and he could do so.

“On such condition I cannot accept her majesty’s offers, and, if that be the cause in which I am to perish, sorry am I that I have but one life to lose.”<sup>19</sup> Philip died in the Tower, sick but unbroken in spirit, on 19 October 1595 at the age of 38.

---

<sup>18</sup> It is interesting that there is no mention of his brother Thomas in this request.

<sup>19</sup> The Dukes of Norfolk, A Quincentennial History by John Martin Robinson pp24

## CHAPTER THREE: Anne Dacre, Widow of Philip Howard

*“Ah Cosen, my Bess has gone to heaven, and  
if it were God Almighty’s will, I wish ye  
other were as well gone after her.”*  
**Anne Dacre Howard**

There is conflicting information on Anne Dacre’s early religious life. She was raised a Catholic and purportedly became a member of the Church of England at the behest of her stepfather, the fourth Duke of Norfolk, and did not return to the Catholic faith until Philip left Elizabeth’s court.

Yet she lived for several years in the household of her husband’s grandfather, Henry Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel, who was known to be a devout Catholic involved in the attempt to free Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary asked that the rosary she wore to her beheading be given to Fitzalan’s daughter, the Lady Lumley. If Anne was not openly Catholic at that time, she was surrounded by those who were. Henry Fitzalan died in 1580 and Philip became Earl of Arundel. It was shortly after this that he reconciled with his wife and within a year he was confined to the Tower the first time.

‘Lady Arundel was treated with great cruelty. All her goods were seized in the queen’s name, and they left her nothing but the beds on which she and the two servants, who now constituted her whole retinue, lay, and these were only lent as a great favour. After Elizabeth had

despoiled and desolated Arundel House..'<sup>20</sup>

The Queen confiscated not only Philip's estates but also those of Anne, which had come to her through her father. Elizabeth passed them out to the nobility of her court at will, and Arundel House, on the river at the foot of Arundel Street, went to Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham, Lord Admiral and hero of the Armada.

Thus begins the story of this small family, which had been stripped of its titles and its lands, while the Queen did her utmost to take their dignity as well. A family which had historically been the highest ducal branch in England, second only to the royal sons, was now reduced to poverty.

As was normal at that time, Anne had no income with which to provide for her family and servants. Their clothing was quite austere, plain and black, which was to remain Thomas's attire throughout his life. To put food on the table and pay the few servants who remained, she was forced to sell the few jewels that had not been confiscated. She had no mode of transportation because the coaches were taken as well and she was forced to walk or hire a carriage when she needed to travel.

After much deprecation, Anne and her household were finally allowed a meager eight pounds per week, and even that money the Queen was negligent in remitting; forcing Ann, now Countess of Arundel, to write to the Queen's treasurer, Lord Burleigh, begging for the promised

funds.

Thomas had a delicate constitution as a young child, and Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, used to “foretell that, if he lived, he would be a great and wise man; and playfully called him a “Winter Pear.”<sup>21</sup>

As Thomas grew older, the Queen threatened several times to have him placed in a non-catholic home to ensure his Protestant upbringing; a threat Anne took very seriously. She conducted an isolated lifestyle, as such, very little is known of early years of Thomas and his sister Elizabeth.

Anne was an extremely devout Catholic who was known for her charity, especially those regarding the Catholic faith. She felt that what she did for the priests and other recusants was not in defiance of her Queen but in deference to her religious beliefs; beliefs, which she concluded could be maintained separately.

She provided Father Southwell a small house in Acton, Middlesex, about six miles from London; for those special occasions when his superiors visited England. After his arrest in 1592, she moved there herself, where she is believed to have been living there when she received word Philip had died; Thomas had just turned ten.

Anne Dacre Howard was always worried about the health of her young son, but it was her daughter, Elizabeth, who died of consumption in the town of her birth, Wiston, at the age of

---

<sup>21</sup> Hervey, p13

fifteen.<sup>22</sup>

Not long afterwards is perhaps the first public record of Thomas's religious conflict. A distraught Ann, upon meeting a relative, a Mrs. Vaux [mother of Lord Vaux], Lady Arundel is reported to have said, "Ah Cosen, my Bess has gone to heaven, and if it were God Almighty's will, I wish ye other were as well gone after her." It would not be her only occasion to pray for his soul.

---

<sup>22</sup> *Stemmata Shirleiana*, by Evelyn Philip Shirley, 1873, pp250

## CHAPTER FOUR: The Talbots and Cavendishes

“Madame! She cannot do ill while she is  
with my husband, and I begin to grow  
jealous; they are so great together.”  
**Elizabeth “Bess” of Hardwick**

Mary, Queen of Scots, fled Scotland and requested refuge with her cousin, Queen Elizabeth, of England. Mary was originally housed with Sir Francis Knollys. He was a very astute gentleman and informed Elizabeth that the Scottish Queen did not arrive with any clothing but what she wore and cared not where the money or manpower came from to retrieve them from Scotland, was keen to avenge herself on her enemies; and perhaps most importantly that she showed a high degree of familiarity which together with her willingness “to risk any peril and pain for the sake of victory”<sup>23</sup> lends itself to the conclusion that she would have used any means which presented itself to gain her own ends.

Queen Mary was in the charge of Knollys until the death of his wife, Catherine, niece of Anne Bolyne, in 1569. Queen Elizabeth decided to move her and chose the Earl of Shrewsbury and his wife Elizabeth [known as Bess of Hardwick] as goalers.

Elizabeth Hardwick, once described as having the attitudes and abilities of a man; married into money, not once but several times. She shrewdly conquered the world of finance

and architecture, and amassed such a large fortune she became one of the richest woman in the world: Second only to her Queen, Elizabeth.

Bess was just 14 years old when she married her first husband, who was only slightly older than herself. By some accounts he was ill when they married, in any case he was dead within a year and she inherited all of his estate. For the next 16 years she remained a widow, then inexplicably, she married William Cavendish and by him had three sons and three daughters. When William died she married thirdly William St. Loe. She was in her fifties when she married a fourth and final time to George Talbot, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shrewsbury. Like her other marriages, she entered this one with an eye to wealth. She insisted that two of his children marry two of hers and refused to enter wedlock until their children were betrothed.

It was to be a long, hard 17 years for Bess after the Queen of Scotland entered her household. Her prisoner was not only 25 years or more her junior, but she was thought to be quite beautiful. On a query from Queen Elizabeth about how Mary fared, Bess wrote back “Madame! She cannot do ill while she is with my husband, and I begin to grow jealous; they are so great together.”<sup>24</sup>

Petty squabbles grew to huge proportions, none of which might have occurred had Queen Elizabeth heeded Bess’s request for Mary to be moved from her home. One of the more extreme plots presented itself during a visit from Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox. She was mother

---

<sup>24</sup> Highways & Byways of Derbyshire, John Benjamin Firth, Macmillan, 1920, pg 447

of Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, the murdered husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. Seeing the way their children reacted to each other she and Bess arranged a marriage between them.

Charles Stewart, now Lord Darnley and Elizabeth Cavendish were married without the Queen's consent and since Charles Stewart (Stuart) was a descendent of Henry VII, any child of his might be a successor to the English throne. It was no wonder that, immediately upon hearing of the marriage, an angry Queen Elizabeth threw Bess in the Tower. When she was released, Bess went straight back to Midlands where she once again took up her duties as caretaker of Queen Mary.

When Bess' granddaughter, Arabella Stuart, was born in 1575, Bess went back to her scheming ways. The child was a niece of Mary, Queen of Scots and a cousin to Queen Elizabeth, and with the death of her daughter, Elizabeth Stuart in 1581, Arabella came to the household of Bess and Mary. Immediately Bess began training the child to become the next Queen of England.

Bess had a relationship with Queen Mary which was much like that of a sister, best friends one day and hostile enemies the next. One day, when she was out of sorts with Mary, she foolishly told her that neither she nor her son James would ever become crowned in England because they were both foreigners and that her granddaughter, Arabella, was the only rightful heir.

Mary, acquainted with nearly everything that went on in the household, promptly had the French Ambassador tell Queen Elizabeth that Arabella had been espoused to the son of the Earl of Leicester, and the feud took off. Bess and two of her sons were accused of making

scandalous accusations against Mary, one source says Bess claimed a child had been born of the union between the Scottish Queen and her own husband, the Earl of Shrewsbury.

Mary wrote ceaselessly to Elizabeth for restitution. Finally, unable to get her way, she wrote Burghley, Elizabeth's Secretary of State, of scandalous matters about Queen Elizabeth, which she said she had heard from Bess. Though it is thought doubtful that Elizabeth ever saw the letter, the Countess of Shrewsbury and her two sons were soon forced to vouch for the honorable conduct of the Queen of Scots, and to deny that any of the shameful lies spread against her were true.

By the end of Queen Mary's stay with the Talbots in 1570, there was at least a truce between the two women, if not actual liking. But the years took a toll on the Talbot marriage, and they ended in separation, after which the Earl of Shrewsbury thanked Queen Elizabeth for ridding him of "the two devils."

Bess outlived her husband by 18 years, during which time she disinherited Arabella and son, Henry. She died February 13, 1608 at the age of 88.