

Longbridge Deverill

THYNNE MEMORIAL: TRANSLATION from the wall tablet Sir John Thynne - below Thomas 2nd Marquess of Bath - now worn and illegible.

In pious memory of John Thynne of Botefields Lye in the county of Shropshire, Knight, who by tracing his paternal ancestry to Galfridus Botevilius (first called Pictavus [Poitevin] for coming to the aid of King John with a large company of his noble compatriots), descended from the right branch of the house of Botefield which had been shattered by the hands of time and fate, and became its distinguished refounder, Steward of the Household to Edward, Duke of Somerset, Protector of England, by whom he was also honoured with a military bath of knighthood as a noble testimony of his outstanding courage displayed at the battle of Musselburgh; a vigorous upholder of the restored religion even in the strictest days of Mary; a dignified man and a greater man as a result of prudence and good fortune, a founder of the dwelling house at Longleat. He had two wives, the first Christiana, daughter of Richard Gresham, knight, the other Dorothea, daughter of William Wroughton, Knight, from whom he was blessed with numerous children of both sexes. He fell asleep in April 1580. His first-born son John, also a Knight, who married Joanna, daughter of Roland Haward, knight, and had a son Thomas Thynne, Knight, who greatly increased the estate which was once quite large. He [Thomas] married first Maria Touchet, daughter of Baron Audley, and later Catherine, through her father the grand-daughter of Thomas, Viscount Bindon. The sons of the first marriage were James Thynne, knight, husband of Isabel, daughter of the Earl of Holland. He died without offspring, a man who deserved well of his king, country and family. And [the second son was] Thomas Thynne, also a knight, husband of Stuartia Balanquilla. All these are buried in the underground chapel nearby. His heir, Thomas Thynne, although a man distinguished for his culture and good manners, was snatched away in the prime life by the hands of assassins, a crime which was wicked and can never be sufficiently deplored. The first Thomas Thynne had a son, Frederick Henry Thynne, a knight and baronet, by his second marriage. He married Mary, daughter of Thomas, Baron Coventry, and was a great guardian of the Seal of England for 15 years until he died. He was a man of very keen ability, and no less remarkable in virtue, and who because of his distinguished loyalty to his Commander and by a large distribution of his wealth escaped punishment from the rapacity of the Civil War.

His eldest son, Thomas, Viscount Weymouth and Baron of Warminster, put up this marble tablet to the sacred ashes of his ancestors.

Translated by Justina Taylor. aided by translations by Rev. C.M. Spinney and Rev. P. Blakiston

[n.b. see family tree]

THE FAMILY TREE OF THE THYNNES
beginning from Sir John Thynne the builder of Longleat and the present generation, among the direct line of descent.

The descent of Longleat is shown by a dagger.

Source: Longbridge Deverill, Sts. Peter & Paul
 Justine Taylor, circa 1980's