

**THE WORTLEY FAMILY:  
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL TENSIONS IN 13<sup>TH</sup>-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ENGLAND**

by

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A thesis submitted to the Faculty of the University of Delaware in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in History with Distinction

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Wortley Family was a prominent noble family which dates to the time of the Norman Conquests and still exists today. While many families claim this is true of theirs, only a small handful can actually claim this to be true. The Wortley Family provide a unique canvas to explore how a family can exist for so long. They show historians what kinds of strategies families will use to survive, and thrive through social and political changes where one wrong move could mean the end to your family name. This paper traces the strategies used by members of the Wortley family through marriage alliances, being a ruthless leader, staying loyal to the monarchy and traveling the world.

## INTRODUCTION

The Wortley Family established itself in the village of Wortley as early as 1066 when the Domesday Book was first compiled. It was in that village where the Wortley family built their church and started to establish their dominance and power in the rural north of England. What the family will reveal is that it is through strategic planning of marriage alliances and career choices that truly help a family survive, and thrive. What occurs through the family history provides us with insights into the history of an aristocratic family that reigned as knights under four different kings in a time when loyalty meant everything. The family's story shows us that choosing sides in civil wars can mean life or death; that you do not have to live in England to make a difference for the modern world and that sometimes, a family breaks down and the only way to hold onto your heritage is through marriage alliances and staying in the family only for the sake of a name. The Wortleys may not be as widely known within English history as Oliver Cromwell, Henry VIII, or Queen Elizabeth, but they were there in the background making their own decisions based on the changing world around them. The goal of this thesis is to show that although they did not hold major positions of power, they still made a difference and provide insight into the lives of noble families. The chapters that follow will demonstrate the trajectory that the Wortley family's history took from its beginning in the thirteenth century to the nineteenth century.

## Chapter 1

### WORTLEY FAMILY ORIGINS

The name “Wortley” is derived from Anglo-Saxon meaning “The Field of Herbs.”<sup>1</sup> The Lordship of Wortley is first recorded in the Domesday Book of the eleventh century. In the book, it states that this Lordship takes up three fourths of the Parish of Tankersley located in modern day West Riding, Yorkshire.<sup>2</sup> It was here that the family first established themselves, not in government but in an ecclesiastical position.

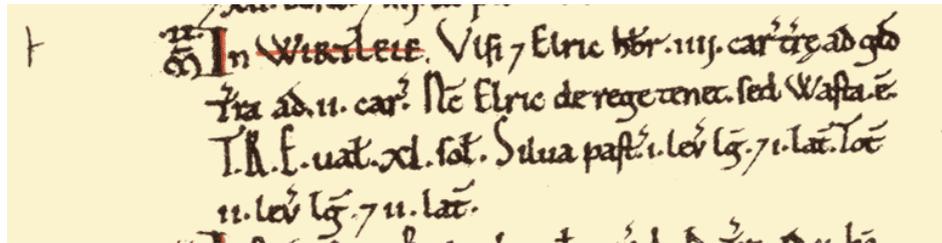


Figure 1 A page from the Domesday Book, Wortley (written as “Wirtle”) held 6 households in West Riding Yorkshire with 5 taxable areas.

They built Wortley Chapel during the reign of King Henry III (r. 1216-1272) and there it remains today under the name of St. Leonard, Wortley Church. There are

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<sup>1</sup> Rev. Alfred Gatty, *Wortley and the Wortleys: A Lecture Delivered Before the Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society, Also the Rotherham Literary and Scientific Society* (Sheffield: Change Alley Corner, 1877), 5.

<sup>2</sup> “Place: Wortley,” accessed September 21, 2014, <http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/SK3099/wortley/>

no more records about the Wortley family or the church until 1268 when one Nicholas de Wortley contested with Parson Henry for the land around West Riding.<sup>3</sup>

Before the Norman Conquest, the land is said to have consisted of “five coruscates,” otherwise known as 500 acres of land that could be plowable, and one and a quarter square leak, 1800 acres.<sup>4</sup> By the 1880’s the land that becomes known as Wortley was about the same size as the Wortley family property, known by this time as Wharncliffe Wood, equaling 1400 acres and the surrounding area of Wortley adding another 600.<sup>5</sup> Over the course of 800 years from the Domesday book and the lecture given by Reverend Alfred Gatty in 1880, the amount of land dropped from 2,300 acres to 2,000 acres, not that considerable of a drop. It speaks to the power the family had. Having this much land in the North was comparable to those that owned large amounts of land on the Western frontier in North America. They were the shield against the Scots and because of this played a very important role in northern politics. Since the Wortleys owned so much land, the king noticed them and several members of the Wortleys would serve as sheriffs in the area. The reason that land holding is so important during this time, and in later centuries, is that land meant adult males with a stated amount of land could vote in elections. For most of early English history, 40 shillings (about £2) gave one as a land holder the ability to vote. Having as much land

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<sup>3</sup> Gatty, *Wortley and the Wortleys*, 4. Parson Henry does not appear in any more documents that could be located. What could be believed is that he was a local land holder in the area that held a significant amount of land that could have been worth more than what the Wortleys already held.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. 5.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 5.

as the Wortleys shows they had considerable status, and kept it, which was extremely difficult.

In the early eleventh century, the Wortley land was divided into two portions, both containing land to plough and land for wood. The larger portion was worth 40 shillings while the other section was valued at ten during the conquest.<sup>6</sup> However, by 1086, unfortunately, the value of the larger portion was reduced to nothing while the smaller portion was valued at 8 shillings.<sup>7</sup> The cause of this depreciation was due to the devastation the north of England experienced when William the Conqueror (r.1066-1087) sent troops into the area. In 1068, earls from around the surrounding area were told to guard the area and in 1069 gained some alliances from the Danes to help. In 1070 they were driven out by William's troops and supplies were cut off. The devastation was caused by burning of buildings and land which led to a 9-year famine of the area.<sup>8</sup> The conflict between the English and William's troops is important because although it was devastated, the land of Wortley was not given to the Normans but held by King Elric and Ulsi who were joint owners. This again shows the prestige that the Wortleys had in the area because by allowing them to keep their land, William the Conqueror recognized their importance in maintaining the north so he could focus his efforts in London and other high stakes cities. You will also see this prestige later when the family adds "de" to their name. When looking at the land the Wortleys

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid. 5.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. 6.

<sup>8</sup> "William the Conquer (r.1066-1087)," accessed January 3, 2015, <http://www.royal.gov.uk/HistoryoftheMonarchy/KingsandQueensofEngland/TheNormans/WilliamItheConqueror.aspx>

owned and the prestige they gained from owning it, we can look to the hunting chase that they owned on the Wharncliffe Crag. In 1252, the family obtained a free grant in order to own land to hunt deer. During this time, Crag were unfenced areas of land used for both the hunt and meat however because the deer were owned by the king, it was a special sign of status to own land and grants to be allowed to kill the deer.<sup>9</sup>

The family itself as aristocrats are believed to have started during the time of William the Conqueror's reign beginning with Alanus de Wortley, though some accounts attribute the founding of the Wortley family to Ralph de Wortley.<sup>10</sup> It is unsure to know completely due to loss of documents through time and natural disasters but also due to the loss of the illuminated pedigree that existed in Wortley Hall which unfortunately was transferred to the government in World War II.<sup>11</sup> It is believed however that it is more accurate to say Alanus de Wortley was the first lord of the Manor as evidenced in the Pipe Rolls of 1165 which stated that he had residence in the area.<sup>12</sup> Whoever was the original founder of the Wortleys had no fewer than eight sons, all by the name of Nicholas de Wortley.<sup>13</sup> The first sign of the Wortleys holding social significance is when they first adopted their coat of armor. This coat was adapted from the shield of Furnival who was the lord of Hallamshire. The only

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<sup>9</sup> Jo Townshend and Jennifer Marchant, "A Guide to the History of Wortley Hall and its Gardens," *Wortley Hall Walled Garden Heritage Project*, Heeley Farms, Sheffield England, 2010, 1.

<sup>10</sup> Gatty, *Wortley and the Wortleys*, 7.

<sup>11</sup> Townshend and Marchant, "A Guide," 7.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 1.

<sup>13</sup> Gatty, *Wortley and the Wortleys*, 7.

difference between the two is that there are three bezants, or circles, on the center stripe. They held the charter for this coat starting in 1246 which gave them all the rights associated with the coats and corporate rights. One of these included the law that anyone who entered the land, “without the license of Nicholas de Wortley would accrue a fine of £10.”<sup>14</sup>

The Wortley family gained much of their prestige through marriage alliances which gained them land and positions of status that they would not have been able to achieve on their own. The line of Nicholas de Wortleys gained land as follows:<sup>15</sup>

The second Nicholas de Wortley married Dionysia de Newmarch through which came the Hardwick property. The next Nicholas married an heiress, Isabel Heron, who brought lands in Holyland Swein. The succeeding Nicholas married Joan Musard, who brought the Horbury estate; and a subsequent Sir Nicholas married Elizabeth de Wannerville, who brought half the manor and advowson of Hemsworth, with other lands.<sup>16</sup> Although the land was not the Wortleys to begin with, English Common Law gave all lands belonging to the wife’s family to the husband. This was the easiest way to claim land without having to show force and through marriage men could also form alliances if a war broke out in the area.

Once the Wortley family claimed these lands, they were able to move up in the ranks to gain power in government later in their family’s history. Right away however,

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 8.

<sup>15</sup> In an attempt to talk about each Nicholas de Wortley separately, I will begin with the second oldest son as there is no record of the first and go list the marriages down to the youngest son.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 8.

the family proved their worth through military actions, one of the most prominent ways to gain prestige in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Along with several other aristocratic families, whose names have been for the most part lost, the Wortleys offered their land and estates to the army to defend during several wars. In the second war of Scottish Independence (1332-1357), the Wortley family, in conjunction with the Bulmeres, were commissioned in 1332 to raise 300 archers and 700 foot soldiers in the County of York to go with the King to oppose the Scots, “if they [Scottish Army] should attempt anything in the Marshes [where the land of Wortley resides and is attached to].”<sup>17</sup> May 29, 1415 during the Hundred Years War (1337-1453), a John de Wortley was commissioned to muster and array an army in West Trithing (modern day West Riding) and to, “employ them for the defense of the sea coasts and elsewhere, and also to place Bekyns in the usual places that notice may be given of the approach of the enemies, in case they should attempt to make a descent whilst the king was beyond the sea in his expedition in France.”<sup>18</sup> Because of the aid the Wortleys gave to the crown in the County of York, our first key Wortley was knighted.

The Wortley family, although they started as an ecclesiastical position, would shed their focus away from the church as a means to power and focus more on winning a seat in Parliament. They were already forming their “empire” in the north almost equivalent to that of the DuPonts in Delaware. They owned the lands and would be the leading power to go to if a person needed protection or aid. The tracts that the family took I believe was the best route. They were not harsh in their rulings,

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 9.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 9.

as far as can be found in documents, and provided jobs to farmers to work the lands. This genteel attitude would change however when Sir Thomas found that sometimes force gets one a lot more as well as a quick thinking attitude which I will discuss later.

In terms of a proper strategy to thrive within the changing times, the use of marriage alliances proves to be one of the best. Even in the beginning with Alanus de Wortley, each Nicholas was strategically married to rich families with plenty of estate that would be included in marriage dowries. Alanus knew he could use this to his advantage to gain the land needed to prosper in the north and create his holding power in the area. The rest of the family will use this same strategy in the future in order to stake their claim to the rest of the lands they will acquire and create the lasting alliances, and enemies that will shape their actions.

## Chapter 2

### ROOTS OF THE ENGLISH ARISTOCRACY

The English aristocracy as we know today and throughout history laid its claim to roots before the Norman Conquest. Although the aristocracy as a form of government formed through the years, the nobility's practice, as a group of the ruling class, of passing their titles through their heirs is as old as the island itself.<sup>19</sup> The conquests strengthened the nobility by adding power and privileges by interlacing the already existing nobility into the new governments and classes that the conquering peoples brought. When Roman rule entered into England, they added a senatorial and patrician aristocracy.<sup>20</sup> Because this form of rule helped enhance the already existing hereditary society, the nobility gained more honorific powers but defined many of the old money families that would encounter problems later once new money families begin arriving. However, since roman rule allowed commoners the chance to gain a seat in government, imperial grants were given out to commoners widening the amount of people in English government. Once the Romans retreated, this form of government fell as did a nobility being formed purely on blood lines.<sup>21</sup> It eventually faded away as the ruling classes failed to produce enough male heirs so families went extinct or were merged by marriage and forming dynasties.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> M. L. Bush, *the English Aristocracy: A Comparative Synthesis* (Manchester: University Press, 1984), 81.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 81.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 81.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 81.

After the Roman rule in England vanished, the Saxons were able to conquer some lands including the area where the Wortley's would later lay claim. After the Conquest, the new aristocracy arrangement gave the nobility a wider array of privileges, mostly corporate.<sup>23</sup> Corporate privileges are those that are enjoyed by the aristocracy as a whole instead of just by nobility.<sup>24</sup> These new privileges that arise allow for a distinction from the commonality and impart a sense of social identity. It is from these that a family could gain the right to a coats of arms as a badge of nobility as opposed to it being merely the mark of a military knight.<sup>25</sup> Coats of arms are important among the nobility because it is a form of a title that can be inherited by the younger son to inherit aristocratic status.<sup>26</sup> This is extremely important if you are not the eldest son in a family because technically you have no claim to lands that your family owns unless other agreements had been made. The younger children would then be forced to buy their own land and get their own positions of power. So to be able to inherit at least the coat of arms allows them the right to use the family name to get what they need to make a name for themselves. Coats of arms could be created for new families without any formal sanctions until 1689 when new arms were required to have formal authorization and the assumption of any coats of arms was outlawed.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid., 81.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., 25.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., 26.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 26.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., 26.



Figure 2 The Wortley Coat of Arms.

Also included in corporate privileges were predicates such as *von* or *de* as well as the designations of “gentleman” and “Mr.”<sup>28</sup> All of these had extreme significance when they were first created up until 1700 when commoners began taking them on, diminishing any status significance they had achieved as a word. One of the first Wortleys, we saw earlier, has the, *de*, in their name, and as time goes on it is dissolved leaving just the family name. A decree in 1440 made a statute claiming that these corporate privileges excluded, “anyone that standeth in the degree of yeoman and beneath” and admitted, “apart from knights such as notable squires, gentlemen of birth...as be able to be knights.”<sup>29</sup> Out of this legislation, a later corporate right

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid., 26.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., 26-27.

distinguishes aristocrat from commoner through the right to certain dress. These rights were awarded to, “the degree of gentleman and above”<sup>30</sup> and could include knights and peers. The fabrics that were allowed only to the nobility in these new laws included foreign furs (enacted 1510, terminated 1532), and silk shirts (enacted 1532, repealed 1604).<sup>31</sup>

These rights and privileges that the aristocracy claimed over the centuries are what allowed families like the Wortleys to lay their claim to large amounts of land and give themselves titles of status such as the *de* and allow them to adopt a coat of arms. Having the coat of arms not only allowed the family to survive longer, but combining the status received by the coat of arms as well as marriage alliances and dowries, gave the Wortley family the ability to thrive throughout English history.

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<sup>30</sup> Ibid., 27.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 27.

### Chapter 3

#### SIR THOMAS WORTLEY

While the Wortley Family had existed for hundreds of years, no one individual showed the determination for survival as my first subject did. Sir Thomas Wortley (d. 1516) was born in 1440 during the Wars of the Roses which defined how social attitudes in English government would operate for the next hundred years. The war, as the Yorks and Lancasters were fighting each other, showed that it was very important who you aligned with. It was during this time that if you happened to be aligned with the losing side at any point, your head was on the chopping block. While the earls were fighting in the war, it left open the opportunity for many families to make their way into the good graces of one side or the other. In the area that Wortley manor resided was the Talbot family, and during the War of Roses their only heir to the land was five years old and did not reside in the area which provided the Wortleys with the opening they needed. Sir Thomas Wortley was said to be the, “only man in these parts,” because of this succession as well as a collection of various misdeeds he enacted which earned him the name “The Dragon of Wantley.”<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Gatty, *Wortley and the Wortleys*, 10 and Llewellynn Jewitt, “Art among the Ballad-Mongers,” *The Art Journal* (1875-1887), Vol 5 (1879): 177.



Fig. 32.—The Dragon of Wantley.

Figure 3 “The Dragon of Wantley.” Llewellynn Jewitt, “Art among the Ballad-Mongers.”

One of the foremost attributes one would notice about Sir Thomas would be who he served under. He was a squire and knight to Edward IV (r.1461-1483), Richard III (r. 1483-1485), Henry VII (r. 1485-1509) and Henry VIII (r. 1509-1547). It is an incredible act for someone to serve under four kings in succession, but it speaks volumes that he was able to serve during such a volatile period. While working under these four kings, he was a steward of the royal castle of Middleham, Kimberworth, Fountains, Nostell, and Monk Bretton Abbeys.<sup>33</sup> He was also a High Sherriff of Yorkshire and served the kings in the Wars.

Figure 3 above is a wood engraving that was made to visually represent how the citizens around the Yorkshire area viewed Sir Thomas. During this time, paintings

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<sup>33</sup> Gatty, *Wortley and the Wortleys*, 10.

and artwork of any kind were very expensive and could only be commissioned by the rich more often than not to show just how powerful they are. So what this engraving shows us is that someone, it is not known who, paid a large sum of money for the sole purpose of branding Sir Thomas as the horrible Dragon of Wantley.

The reason for Sir Thomas' nickname, "The Dragon of Wantley," comes from his need for more land and prestige. In 1510, Wharncliffe Lodge was built on the crags that had been given to the Wortleys. This building, used as a hunting lodge, required an expansion of the already existing chase they owned. In order to do this, Sir Thomas evicted a large number of tenants living on the land around the chase.<sup>34</sup> In addition to evicting tenants on the basis of needing more hunting grounds, he is also said to have beggared some freeholders and "cast them out of their inheritance."<sup>35</sup> A poem that was titled, "An Excellent Ballad of that Most Dreadful Combate Fought between Moore of Moore Hall and the Dragon of Wantley," described Sir Thomas as a dragon that left nothing behind for the sole purpose of his own pleasure. One of the verses went as such:

Houses and Churches  
Were to him geese and turkies;  
Eat all and left none behind,  
But some stones, dear Jack,  
Which he could not crack,  
Which on the hills you will find.<sup>36</sup>

In the poem we see that Sir Thomas was seen as someone who would eat up houses and churches, people and cattle and even the forest, just as a dragon would do

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<sup>34</sup> Townshend and Marchant, "A Guide," 1.

<sup>35</sup> Jewitt, "Ballad-Mongers," 177.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, 177.

in his pursuit of gold and treasure. Naturally, it angered many of the people living in the area including some distinguished people of who he had cast out of their inheritance. Some commentary on the poem tell the reader that on a rock by the lodge, Sir Thomas himself inscribed,

Pray for the saule of Thomas Wryttelay, knight for the kyngys bode to Edward the forthe, rychard therd, hare the vij and hare viij, hows saules god perdon. Wyche Thomas cawsyd a loge to be made hon thys crag ne mydys of wancliff, for his plesor to her the hartes bel, in the yere of owr lord a thousand cccccx.<sup>37</sup>

The reason the ballad was written based on the combat, or dissension, between the Moores and Wortley was because the Moore (More) family was a descendent of the grand Derbyshire family whose succession ran unbroken since the time of Henry III (r. 1216-1272).<sup>38</sup> The Wortleys and the Moores were connected by marriage, so for Sir Thomas to try to rid the Moores of their inheritance not only destroys an old money family, it also hurts his in the process.

To be typified as a dragon during this time holds its own symbolism. Dragon ballads all hold a common origin and hold the same ideas such as the dens, the well, the pestilent breath and foulness, and the eating of human beings.<sup>39</sup> In these poems as well, there is usually a pure virgin being sacrificed and eventually rescued by a knight, but in the terms of the Dragon of Wantley, he attacks the knight outright. The dragon throughout history has been a symbol of the devil and is generally used to typify

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<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 177.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., 178.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 178.

tyranny, oppression, cruelty and wrong.<sup>40</sup> In a later verse in the poem Sir Thomas is shown as an evil figure trying to devour everything in its path:

Bespeak in Sheffield Town,  
With spikes all about,  
Not within, but without,  
Of steel so sharp and strong,  
Both behind and before,  
Arms, legs, and all oer,  
Some five or six inches long.  
Had you seen him in this dress,  
How fierce he look'd and how big,  
You would have thought him for to be  
An Egyptian porcupig.  
He frightened all-  
Cats, dogs and all-  
Each cow, each horse, and each hog-  
For fear did flee  
For they took him to be  
Some strange outlandish hedge-hog.<sup>41</sup>

This poem shows just how brutal Sir Thomas was at the end of his life and perhaps explains how he became so liked by so many kings. Having to play his cards right during the Wars of the Roses and during the Tudor reign would have been extremely difficult especially as he moved from king to king. He would have had to prove his loyalty and tread lightly with his views and watch who he talked to at risk of being executed. He would also have picked up how to be cunning and to know who to play in order to help himself. This poem, which was found with the wooden engraving seen earlier is just another way for the commissioner of the art to put a black mark on

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<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 178.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 179.

Sir Thomas' name. Just as artwork was highly cherished, so was poetry. To have your name remembered in song was, and is, a way of honoring someone's achievements and honors typically in a war. But to have a song written about an individual in this fashion is the equivalent to posting signs on telephone poles with "traitor" written in red ink. In the engraving, the dragon is seen eating a man in black dress which is echoed in the poem, "Houses and Churches, Were to him geese and turkies; eat all and left none behind..." You can also see the people fleeing presumably those that Sir Thomas drove out of their lands. In the back it is also important to note the man is wearing a robe and a crown, which I believe to be the king. What I infer from this part of the engraving is that the artist is pointing out that the king, or at least the government, would have known an entire town was being driven off their land and he chose to do nothing. By placing him in the back away from the people being eaten, not only is the artist putting Sir Thomas to shame, he is also making a political statement against the monarchy and how he feels they treat those that are not within the aristocratic spheres.

Belonging to a family trying to survive and thrive during the War of the Roses where families are killing each other, it was in Sir Thomas' best interest to have been as violent as he was. Growing up during a very violent period for any rich family, he would have learned how to be ruthless and essentially, become this Dragon of Wantley.

Sir Thomas married three times throughout his life, and from the third marriage he had one son by the same name. It would be this Thomas who married a daughter of Sir John Savile of Tankersley, another strong marriage alliance which would later cause severe family hatred after Thomas' death at the age of 42. His

widow was remarried and had a son who took the name Wortley. It is not known why he did not take his father's name of Corbet but it can be inferred that it was at the will of his mother as she received the Wortley estates at the death of her husband. Her son, Francis Wortley, was a lawyer and had one son by the name of Richard who was knighted and rebuilt the Wortley estates in 1586. His son, Sir Francis is the next member of the family who showed he had the skill to keep the family thriving within England.

This strategy that Sir Thomas used can be seen as successful because of the amount of land that was acquired, although it was through less ethical means and it also allowed people to know the Wortley name. Even though it was with a negative connotation, this would allow people to see the drastic changes that will take place between Sir Thomas' actions and Sir Francis who I will talk about in the next chapter. Another point to make about his actions is that it allowed his son to marry a Savile, a very prominent family in English history. To have an affiliation with the Saviles meant your family meant something. Sir Thomas' son would have received a large dowry from this marriage as quite possibly more lands to add to the Wortley Estates.

## Chapter 4

### SIR FRANCIS WORTLEY AND THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

Sir Francis (August 15, 1591-1652) came to fame within the family through his actions during the English Civil War (1642-1651) and his imprisonment in the Tower of London where he wrote several letters as well as poetry and prose. Unlike his ancestor Sir Thomas, who was known for his ruthlessness, Sir Francis was known for being an “an ingenious gentleman who trod in the steps of his worthy ancestors in hospitality charity and good neighborhood.”<sup>42</sup> There is a story told that in 1620, he prosecuted a Nottingham magistrate, Sir George Lassells in the Star Chamber for beating one of Sir Francis’ servants. In 1622, he also returned from a trip to come to the aid of a servant who had been accused of stealing and was on trial.<sup>43</sup>

In the photo of Sir Francis located below, we see that this is the first portrait to be painted of a Wortley, presumably commissioned by himself. This is a drastic change from the earlier woodcut of the Dragon of Wantley which was commissioned for the sole purpose of smearing Sir Thomas’ name. The painting of Sir Francis shows him in full armor and standing very regally, which would send a positive message about the family.

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<sup>42</sup> “Wortley, Sir Francis, 1<sup>st</sup> Bt. (1591-1652), of Wortley Hall, Tankersley, Yorks,” Cambridge University Press, [http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/wortley-sir-francis-1591-1652#footnote24\\_jw24goc](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/wortley-sir-francis-1591-1652#footnote24_jw24goc)

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.



Figure 4 Sir Francis Wortley. Painted c. 1650, attributed to the Flemish School. Photo Credit: Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds.

Sir Francis was knighted by James I (r. 1567-1625) at the palace of Theobald's in Hertfordshire, the year unknown, and the following year was made a baronet.<sup>44</sup> An educated man, he decided to join King Charles (r. 1625-1649) during the English civil war when every noble family was forced to take either the side of King Charles or of Parliament.<sup>45</sup> During King Charles' short reign, Sir Francis served as Gent. of privy chamber from 1630.<sup>46</sup> Because of his loyalty to the king, Sir Francis turned his home into a fortress, just as his ancestors had done centuries ago during the Norman Conquest. With 150 dragoons, he raised his own army and in the army lists of the

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<sup>44</sup> Gatty, *Wortley and the Wortleys*, 14.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, 14.

<sup>46</sup> "Wortley, Sir Francis," [http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/wortley-sir-francis-1591-1652#footnote24\\_jw24goc](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/wortley-sir-francis-1591-1652#footnote24_jw24goc)

Roundheads and Cavaliers in 1642 he is listed as a Colonel of the 5<sup>th</sup> regiment who numbered about 1000.<sup>47</sup> It is important to note that Roundheads (Parliamentarians) were those that sided with Parliament during the war and Cavaliers (Royalists) were those that sided with King Charles, such as Sir Francis.<sup>48</sup> The first battle that he fought in was the Battle of Tankersley Moor which occurred in 1643, at the very beginning of the war.<sup>49</sup> There is a story described in John Hobson's journal where a young man by the name of Bailie of Dodworth was forced to join the king's army and after a year he deserted. Sir Francis found him and was said to become, "judge and executioner all himself."<sup>50</sup> The young man was hanged on a tree near Wortley hall without trial. This story shows Sir Francis' dedication to the king and his cause but also shows the same violence that came so naturally to Sir Thomas.

Although he was generally known for being less hostile than Sir Thomas, outside of the last event, he did inherit his fathers (Sir Richard Wortley) hostility to the Savile family and because of this, became a supporter of Sir Thomas Wentworth who was Sir John Savile's rival in the Yorkshire electoral politics. Another story is told that in 1625, Savile and Wortley encountered each other outside Westminster Hall where Wortley allegedly insulted Savile. Savile kicked Sir Francis who retaliated by striking Savile with his sword, "only then to have his own face slashed by one of Savile's

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<sup>47</sup> Gatty, *Wortley and the Wortleys*, 14.

<sup>48</sup> Sheffield Archives, "English Civil War Study Guide v1,"

<sup>49</sup> Gatty, *Wortley and the Wortleys*, 14.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, 15.

servants.”<sup>51</sup> An investigation was launched by Lord chief justice Sir Ranulph Crewe against Savile however, the case was delayed for unknown reasons and Savile was able to procure a pardon from the king in March 1626. Sir Francis brought a separate suit against Savile for assault and battery and was awarded £3,000.

The English Civil War (1642-1651) was started between King Charles and Parliament over King Charles absolutism as well his many political and military failures that led to raising debt, all of which were never backed by Parliament. Because of this, he dissolved Parliament in 1629 and not calling them until 1640 when he needed money to raise money for a war against the Scots. Instead of aiding him and granting him money, they instead raised a list of grievances and demands for more power. Naturally this angered the king more thus beginning the war.<sup>52</sup> Very quickly, the war proved to be on Parliaments side since they had the money as well as a majority support around the country. Old and new money families chose their sides and in some cases this was a life or death decision because when Parliament eventually won by executing the King for high treason in 1649. His son, Charles II tried to avenge his father’s death and continued fighting but was defeated by Oliver Cromwell’s armies at the Battle of Worcester on September 3, 1651. By the end of the war, the monarchy was abolished and ruled was reinstated by a republican commonwealth from 1649-1660 which ended with Cromwell’s death in September

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<sup>51</sup> “Wortley, Sir Francis,” [http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/wortley-sir-francis-1591-1652#footnote24\\_jw24goc](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/wortley-sir-francis-1591-1652#footnote24_jw24goc)

<sup>52</sup> Sheffield Archives, “Sources for the Study of the English Civil War,” 4.

1658. The monarchy was eventually reestablished when Charles II came back from exile in 1660.<sup>53</sup>

Sir Francis' loyalty to the crown initially started as a desire to have a career in the courts but he started in the house of Prince Henry who Sir Francis described as, "my first master...whose name is...sacred to Mars and the Muses, whose memory is still precious to the world."<sup>54</sup> After Henry's death in 1612, Sir Francis hoped to be elected in the Nottinghamshire borough of East Retford where land that was owned by his father, and now his mother, was located. Finally gaining a seat in 1624, it was only through a by-election after John Darcy died on April 21, 1624. Consequently, Sir Francis' time actually served was very short and is only mentioned in passing in most government documents.<sup>55</sup>

When the war broke out, it was inevitable that Sir Francis would chose the king's side. Fighting in several battles as mentioned including the Siege of Hull in 1642, he would be captured and imprisoned in the Tower of London from 1644-1648. It was here he became known for his poetry and prose. In a rare situation, he was released from the Tower but only to be in debt and having to sell some of the Wortley Estate.

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<sup>53</sup> Ibid.,4

<sup>54</sup> "Wortley, Sir Francis."

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.



Figure 5 Sir Francis. Date unknown. Photo Credit: Sheffield Libraries Archives and Information: Picture Sheffield s08165.

This engraving of Sir Francis offers a similar view of the positive message he would have wanted to spread about the Wortleys. Having known how brutal Sir Thomas was and the hatred against him, Sir Francis would have wanted to make it his point to show how gentle and trusting the family was. Maybe it was this new attitude that allowed Sir Francis to gain the trust and prestige that would have been required to allow him to be released from the Tower and sent home to Yorkshire.

Sir Francis had one son, also by the name of Francis who caused a rent in the family line as before this the lands had passed through only the male heirs for five centuries. Leaving the lands to his daughter, in his will he also asked that when she marry, the husband take the name Wortley. His daughter was married to the Earl of Sandwich's son, Sidney Montagu. Of this marriage came two children, the second oldest being Edward Wortley Montagu who marries Lady Pierrepont.

## Chapter 5

### LADY MARY WORTLEY-MONTAGU

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (Born Mary Pierrepont in 1689) is one of the more well-known Wortleys due to the vast amount of poetry and prose she wrote while living in Constantinople. She was introduced to the Wortley family through a dinner party which Mrs. Anne Wortley attended.<sup>56</sup> The two corresponded through writing letters and having tea for several years however, many of the letters were a cover for the relationship which was growing between Lady Mary and Edward Wortley Montagu after they met at one of the teas that Lady Mary attended in Wortley Hall.

Edward is described in Gatty's lecture as, "a fine scholar, with strong literary tastes, and a cool, calculating brain, which served him in good stead, both in private and public life."<sup>57</sup> Later in his adulthood, he became a friend of both Addison and Steele to which is claimed he owed some of his genius.

In the portrait of Edward below, we see again that the Wortley family is commissioning paintings of themselves. In contrast to Sir Francis' which shows him in armor, Edward is now being shown in a blouse and jacket. Having a more aristocratic air about him would be a way for the family to show the change of pace they were making moving from a military family to one focusing their career in politics and education.

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<sup>56</sup> Gatty, "*Wortley and the Wortleys*," 19-20.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, 20.



Figure 6 Edward Wortley Montagu, ambassador in Constantinople 1716-1718. Painted 1730 by John Vanderbank. Photo Credit: Government Art Collection.

Lady Mary, 14 at the time, was the daughter of the Marquis of Dorchester, later Duke of Kingston, and was, “singularly precocious.”<sup>58</sup> She had a reputation for learning beyond, “what ladies of her day were commonly taught,” as well as deeply read in old romances which may have lent a hand to her latter fame of her prose. Also having knowledge of Latin and the classics, she became attracted to Edward and he became the, “guide, philosopher, and friend in her ardent pursuit of literary and

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<sup>58</sup> Ibid., 20.

scholastic attainments.”<sup>59</sup> Lady Mary through the years corresponded with Anne Wortley through letters which can only be seen now as expressions of devotion between Lady Mary and Edward. Their relationship grew through the secret letters and continued in the open after Anne Wortley died when Lady Mary was about 20 years old. The love letters that were continuing to be passed showed Lady Mary was at ease in the confidence of being the object of warm affection and talked of an early union between the two.



Figure 7 Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. Painted 1718, attributed to Jonathan Richardson the Elder. Photo Credit: Museums Sheffield.

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<sup>59</sup> Ibid., 21.

Lady Mary's father, Lord Dorchester, was consulted about a marriage between the two and he agreed on certain conditions. Edward would have to settle his property on any future eldest son. Edward refused to do this angering her father enough so that he forbade the marriage and commanded Lady Mary to marry someone of his choosing who would be more compliant with his requests.<sup>60</sup> Their love meant more to each other and on August 16<sup>th</sup> 1712, the two eloped.<sup>61</sup> This only caused more dissent between Lady Mary and her father and for years he refused his forgiveness as well as any fortune that would be bequeathed to her.

Because of this, the couple were poor and sought housing in the country and Edward sought political employment in the capital.<sup>62</sup> Getting jobs in government, Edward was able to provide for his now growing family as their first son was born during the first year of their marriage. The next year, 1714, Edward was made one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury and it was here that Lady Mary made a great appearance at the court, becoming the only English lady allowed among King George's German coterie.<sup>63</sup> Possibly because of the king's love for Lady Mary, she and her husband were given ambassador status in 1717 and sent to Constantinople

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<sup>60</sup> Ibid., 23.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid., 23.

<sup>62</sup> The Wortley family had no money to their name because Sir Francis died in much debt but still owned land. Because his son had only a daughter (Anne), and all his territorial possessions and his will which was disputed due to signature fraud, were lost. Gatty, "*Wortley and the Wortleys*," 20-23.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., 23.

where their only other child was born who later becomes the Countess of Bute, wife of the Prime minister and heir to the Wortley Estates.<sup>64</sup>



Figure 8 Lady Mary and first born, Edward, named after her husband Edward Wortley Montagu. Painted c. 1717, attributed to Jean-Baptiste Vanmour. Photo Credit: National Portrait Gallery, London.

I chose to include this painting of Lady Mary and her son Edward because it is one quite different from what we have seen of the family. The first one showing a landscape, Lady Mary would have spent a large sum of money putting this together. It shows her in English garb however, the background is more exotic and there is even a

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<sup>64</sup> Ibid., 24.

Turkish man in the background to the right. The message that is trying to be conveyed here is one of wealth of prestige. During this time, traveling to far off places was the signal of status. By taking the focus off herself and her son, she portrays this message quite well. In figure 9, we see her son Edward in his Turkish garb. In contrast to his father painting showing him in aristocratic English clothes, Edward is showing how influenced he was by his time living in Constantinople. During the eighteenth century, it was only the wealthy who could travel and become archaeologists. While it might not have been the political direction his family would have wanted, it was still a sign of prestige.



Figure 9 Edward Wortley Montagu, Lady Mary's son. Highly influenced by living in Constantinople while his father was an ambassador, he left England in 1762 to permanently travel in the Middle East and study as an archaeologist. Painted 1775 by Matthew William Peters. Photo Credit: National Portrait Gallery, London.

While in Constantinople, Lady Mary gained her international prestige. Small pox was well known during this time as being extremely lethal, Lady Mary was herself diagnosed, and survived though without her eyelashes and with her beauty being impaired. Because of this, Lady Mary was determined to save her children from the horrors of the disease. She took her four year old son and gave him the small pox inoculation in both arms. According to American civil war medical books, this inoculation consisted of making a small incision in the arm of the patient of placing a scab of someone infected with the disease into the cut. Sew it up and wait a few days for it to take.<sup>65</sup> This being similar to vaccinations today that carry strains of the virus was not always successful so for Lady Mary to perform this on her own four year old was highly discussed and looked down upon. Having succeeded in saving her children, she returned to England two years later to public and medical opposition to the inoculation.<sup>66</sup> She persisted among many medical communities and her influence led to the establishment of the vaccine. This left such a lasting impact on the community that in Lichfield Cathedral there is a female figure in marble leaning on an urn inscribed:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
THE RIGHT HONORABLE  
LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU,  
WHO HAPPILY INTRODUCED, FROM TURKEY,  
INTO THIS COUNTRY,  
THE SALUTARY ART OF INOCULATING THE SMALL-POX.  
CONVINCED OF ITS EFFICACY  
AND THEN RECOMMENDED THE PRACTICE OF IT TO HER  
FELLOW CITIZENS

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<sup>65</sup> Fort Delaware State Park, "Information for Historical Interpreters," 2012.

<sup>66</sup> Gatty, *Wortley and the Wortleys*, 24.

THUS, BY HER EXAMPLE AND ADVICE,  
 WE HAVE SOFTENED THE VIRULENCE,  
 AND ESCAPED THE DANGER OF THIS MALIGNANT DISEASE  
 TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF SUCH BENEVOLENCE  
 AND TO EXPRESS HER GRATITUDE  
 FOR THE BENEFIT SHE HERSELF RECEIVED FROM  
 THIS ALLEVIATING ART,  
 THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED BY  
 HENRIETTA INGE  
 RELICT OF THEODORE WILLIAM INGE, ESQ.,  
 AND DAUGHTER OF SIR JOHN WROTTESELEY, BART.,  
 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD,  
 MDCCLXXXIX<sup>67</sup>



Figure 10 Memorial to the Right Honorable Lady Mary Wortley Montagu showing inscription dedicating small pox inoculation to her.

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<sup>67</sup> Gatty, "Wortley and the Wortleys," 25.

The inscription and statue dedicated to Lady Mary show the lasting impression she made to the world around her. Not every person gets a memorial made for them, in marble no less. While Lady Mary did not go to Constantinople with the intention of changing how society looked at medicine, the decision she made to give her children the small pox inoculation could have been the moment needed for the medical community to see that it in fact worked, and that the upper classes were willing to perform such an invasive procedure on their children. This strategy to literally keep the family surviving and is a stark contrast to how previous members of the family kept the name going. Edward Wortley in making his decision to leave the political realm and travel the Middle East did leave him with no inheritance but showed that the family was interested in more than just military and political affairs.

## Chapter 6

### THE WORTLEY FAMILY AFTER THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Edward Wortley Montagu (the first son of Lady Mary) was never baptized which could be attributed to growing up in the Turkish Empire and what has been described as “Turkish Fever”. We see this in his portrait where he chooses to cloth himself not in traditional English aristocratic clothing but the garb of Turkish travelers. When the family returned to England, he was sent to Westminster School to receive a proper English education where he showed to possess the same love for education that his mother had. But for unknown reasons he ran away from the school to be a fish salesman in Blackwell. After about a year of missing, a family friend recognized his voice and promptly brought him back to his family where he ran away again. He was able to catch a boat which was sailing for Oporto (the second largest city in Portugal) and from there worked in the vineyards for 3 years. Ironically, the same man who found him the first time located him again but this time instead of bringing Edward back to England, he decided to stay with him and become his traveling tutor. This seems to have worked for a while because in 1747 Edward became an elected member for Huntingdonshire. To me this is extremely interesting because his whole life, Edward had shown no interest in ever settling down so it makes me wonder if this was due to persuasion from his father to keep the Wortley name within government and not to tarnish it by his travels and insistence and learning about Turkish culture.<sup>68</sup> For unknown reasons, Edward became involved in debt and

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<sup>68</sup> Gatty, *Wortley and the Wortleys*, 25-26.

escaped to Paris where he was imprisoned on the accusation of a gambling Jewish man. He was later let out because the accusation was proven to be false.

He returned to be a Member of Parliament for Bossiney which eventually became disfranchised by the first Reform Bill. The reason for him representing this area was because his father had purchased the Tintagel estate which was located in the area. Edward the junior seemed to have settled within the scholarly sphere of England because he wrote a book entitled, “Reflections on the Rise and fall of the Ancient Republics, Adapted to the Present State of Great Britain.”<sup>69</sup> This was not enough for his father though because at his death, Edward senior disinherited his son and gave the estates to his daughter who then became the Countess of Bute.

During this time, Edward Wortley senior inherited the Wortley estates in 1727 from his father. This caused tensions between Wortley and Lady Mary because he became so focused on improving the property and his public affairs. This devotion to the family name is the trend we see following the Wortley family throughout their history. They forgo other duties in order to preserve their name. We see this with Sir Thomas when he gave up having a good reputation to gain lands, Sir Francis fought with the losing side to stay loyal to the King and Edward Wortley gave up on his marriage. Her husband’s obsession with the family name could be one of the reasons why Lady Mary committed herself to a voluntary exile in 1739 which lasted more than 20 years. Another reason that has been entertained as to the reason behind her exile was because of her tensions with the Pope.<sup>70</sup> Several of her writings, those mostly

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<sup>69</sup> Ibid., 27.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid., 26.

involved with women's rights, caused her to be attacked by several high standing officials within England.

The estates that were left behind to the Countess of Bute included the original Wortley Estates, Tintagel estates and Simonstone in Wensley Dale and £500,000. He also charged Edward an annuity of £1,000 a year. Curiously the Earl of Bute supplemented some of this money.<sup>71</sup> To add to the embarrassment of not receiving any inheritance from his father, when Lady Mary died a year later she only left Edward half a crown and bequeathed the rest to her daughter.<sup>72</sup> To put it in perspective, half a crown is 2 shillings and 6 pence and for most of English history you need 40shillings (about £2) to vote.

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<sup>71</sup> Ibid., 28.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid., 29.



Figure 11 Edward Wortley Montagu. By George Romney in 1775. Photo Credit: Museums Sheffield.

Edward Wortley the younger (from now on he will be referred to as just Edward) continues to be an interesting story after the death of his parents. In 1763, he was living in Alexandria (seemingly giving up on everything English). It was here that he met the wife of Captain Ferve who was a Dane traveling in the area with the English Consul. Her maiden name was Catherine Dormer and she was a Roman Catholic by faith.<sup>73</sup> He became acquainted with Mrs. Ferve and fell violently in love and plotted to get rid of her husband. Somehow getting Mr. Ferve to go back to England, Edward was able to forge death certificates to make Mrs. Ferve think he husband had passed which allowed Edward to propose to Catherine. She agreed as

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<sup>73</sup> Ibid., 30.

long as Edward agreed to become a Roman Catholic which he did in Jerusalem October 7, 1764.<sup>74</sup> The news of the marriage reached England where Mr. Ferve heard and quickly left England to demand his wife back. A lawsuit was brought up in Italy but Edward won because the marriage between Mr. Ferve and Catherine was considered null and void since Mr. Ferve was Protestant.<sup>75</sup> Edward and Catherine resided in Smyrna for some time after which they moved to Rosetta in 1771. It was here that Edward decided he wanted to become a “Mussulmen” or a Muslim and make a pilgrimage to Mecca. He also adopted a black boy and named him as his heir in 1773. All of this being too much, Catharine left Edward and moved to live with her sister.<sup>76</sup> We find Edward in Venice in 1776 where he printed an ad in the *Public Advertiser* which claimed,

...a gentleman, who had sat in two successive Parliaments, was nearly 60 years of age, lived in great splendor and hospitality, and from whom a considerable estate must pass, if he died without issue, was willing to marry a widow, or single lady, of genteel birth and polite manners.<sup>77</sup>

Lord Wharncliffe later describes this advertisement and states that it is believed to have been successful and a woman was sent to Paris to meet Edward however while she was on her way there, Edward was eating dinner and a bone caught in his throat which killed him.<sup>78</sup> No other records can be found on Edward on his living conditions

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<sup>74</sup> Ibid., 30.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid., 30-31.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid., 31.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid., 32.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid., 32.

in Venice that he describes in the advertisement. It's hard to believe that he would have had as much money as he says since he received no inheritance and had no job that was recorded. The ad could have been a ploy just to get a wife so he could create an heir. Though it does raise questions about what happened to the boy he adopted as no more information was ever given about him.

Since he received no inheritance, we return to England and follow the family line from the Countess of Bute, Lady Mary's daughter who inherited the Wortley estates from her father and a large sum of money from her mother. The Countess of Bute's second son, James Archibald Stuart Wortley (b. 1747) became the heir to the Wortley estates at his mother's death in 1794. However, it was only at his mother's death that he assumed the Wortley name as well as the Stuart name.<sup>79</sup> In addition to the Wortley estates, he also received land that his father had acquired including the Belmont Estate in Perthshire. In 1767 at the age of 20, he privately married Margaret, the daughter of Sir David Cunningham, Bart., of Levingstone. Later he earned the status of Colonel in the Bedfordshire militia where he raised the 92<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot in 1779 and was appointed lieutenant-colonel commanding. He served in the West Indies in 1780 but due to poor health he returned home to England in 1783 where his regiment was disbanded following the Treaty of Paris. Following his uncle's death (James Stuart Mackenzie) in 1800, he took the surname of Mackenzie as well as his estates. Now named Colonel James Archibald Stuart Wortley Mackenzie, he and his wife had 5 children: John Stuart Wortley (1773-1797) who died unmarried; James Archibald Stuart Wortley Mackenzie, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Wharncliffe (1776-1845); Mary Stuart

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<sup>79</sup> Ibid., 32.

Wortley (d. 1855); Louisa Harcourt Stuart Wortley (1781-1848) married in 1801 to George Percy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Beverley, later Duke of Northumberland; and George Stuart Wortley (1783-1813). Because of the death of his first son, James gave his Yorkshire Estates to his second son James Archibald Stuart Wortley Mackenzie, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Wharncliffe.

James Archibald Stuart Wortley Mackenzie (from now on referred to James Archibald) had a childhood story closely resembling that of Edward Wortley, Lady Mary's son. He traveled with chimney sweeps from Richmond Park where his father occupied the Deputy Ranger's house. After four days, James Archibald returned and received his education afterwards joining the army and serving in a Highland regiment at the Cape of Good Hope until he was recalled in 1810. While serving, he married Lady Caroline Creighton in 1799 who was the daughter of the first Earl of Erne.<sup>80</sup> In a diary entry, James Archibald is described as, "a spirited, sensible, zealous, honorable, consistent country gentleman."<sup>81</sup> He did sit in Parliament for several years and held the positions of Lord Privy Seal in 1834, Lord President of the Council in 1841.<sup>82</sup>

In his painting, James is going back to Edward Wortley's style and is painted showing him in a basic aristocratic outfit of a suit and vest. His strategy for keeping the family name alive was to pursue a career in politics just as his ancestors had tried to do.

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<sup>80</sup> Ibid., 35.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid., 35.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid., 35.



Figure 12 James Archibald Stuart Wortley Mackenzie, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Wharncliffe by Hugh Thompson. Photo Credit: Museums Sheffield.

It would be James Archibald who would put together Lady Mary's writings and letters giving her the prominence that we relish today. Of course she was famous in her own time, but like great artists, she did not receive her international fame until after her death among the literature community. James Archibald had 4 children with his wife Caroline: John Stuart Wortley Mackenzie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Wharncliffe (1801-1855); Honorable Charles Stuart Wortley Mackenzie (1802- 1844); Honorable James Archibald Stuart Wortley, Solicitor General (1805-1881); Honorable Caroline Jane Stuart Wortley Mackenzie (d.1876), married in 1830 to Honorable John Chetwynd-Talbot.

His eldest son, John Stuart Wortley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Wharncliffe early on distinguished himself in the Honor Schools in Oxford and in 1825 married Georgiana Elizabeth, daughter of the Earl of Harrowby.<sup>83</sup> In 1835, he contested an election of Members for the West Riding but unfortunately was defeated by Lord Morpeth. John tried again in 1837 but was again unsuccessful and was defeated again by Lord Morpeth. In 1841, John ran with Mr. Beckett Denison and was elected head of the poll. These failures that John encountered show the slow demise that the Wortley family was facing. In the past, we saw how easy it was for the Wortleys to win a seat in Parliament or win some title through politics or the military.

The second son of James Archibald, the Honorable Charles Stuart Wortley, married Lady Emmeline C.E. Manners, daughter of the Duke of Rutland. Their son, Colonel Wortley was known for advancements he made in photographic art.

Since 1870, Parliament and the House of Commons have listened to the Right Honorable James Stuart Wortley, the Earl of Wharncliffe's uncle on certain matters and he has held the titles of Judge Advocate General, Recorder of London and Solicitor General.<sup>84</sup>

The eldest son of John Stuart Wortley Mackenzie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Wharncliffe, Edward Montagu Stuart Granville Montagu Stuart Wortley Mackenzie, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Wharncliffe held the estates in the 1850s till his death in 1899. After losing an election in 1865, the Earl of Wharncliffe became a railway executive. Because of this, he was able to travel to America, India, Ceylon, Australia, and New Zealand. He became the

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<sup>83</sup> Ibid., 36.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid., 38.

Chairman of Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (which under his leadership became the Great Central Railway). In 1876 he became the Viscount Carlton of Carlton in the West Riding in Yorkshire. In 1880 he was granted a royal license to assume an additional surname of Montagu.

This Wortley chose to take a different route and travel the world for the rail industry. A very easy way to create a social standing, he found that politics did not work for him and sought the next way possible to make money. His portrait also serves to give a visual representation to the changes he would take the family name. Donning the shotgun and hunting outfit, it is a different direction than the pose with formal attire of a suit and vest. It also shows the changes that were occurring to aristocratic families at the turn of the century as countries were becoming more industrialized. Noble families found that money was easy to be made in industrial works such as rail, steel and coal mining and many were taking this route as an alternant to politics and the military.

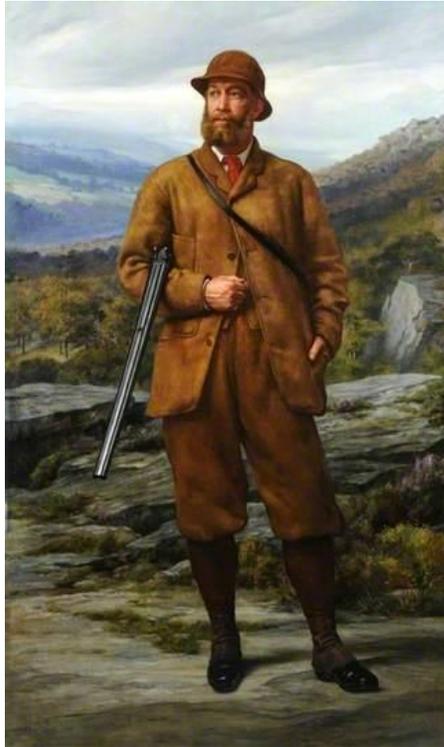


Figure 13 Edward Montagu Stuart Granville Montagu Stuart Wortley Mackenzie, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Wharncliffe. Painted 1881 by Edward John Poynter. Photo Credit: Museums Sheffield.

## Chapter 7

### CONCLUSION

As stated through my research, the Wortley family showed they knew the most effective way to stay a prominent family from the time of the Norman Conquests and achieve what a few families today can truly say. Many rich and well known families claim they can trace their ancestry to that time but only can do so through their in laws and marriage alliances. The Wortley family started early and very quickly established their dominance in the north as a powerful family. From Alanus de Wortley choosing the right families to marry his sons to, he was creating last alliances that the family would be able to fall back on in times of need. Later, when Sir Thomas came to power, he found that his strategy to success was to be as ruthless as possible by stealing the land of those around him and battling another powerful family in the north, the Moores. His actions created such a lasting impression on the land around the Wortley Estates that an unknown person commissioned a wood engraving for the sole purpose of making sure Sir Thomas' name, as well as the Wortleys, had a bad reputation. This would have caused distrust of those around him even though he was so loyal to the four kings he served under.

This distrust that Sir Thomas created would take several generations until Sir Francis was able to brush off the reputation left behind. Though it is not known exactly what Sir Francis did, through protecting his servants during their trials and showing he could stand up to the Savile's, Sir Francis was able to show the Wortleys were not ruthless as had previously been known. This trusting relationship that was successfully built allowed him to be released from the Tower of London, a feat only a

select handful can truly say. Once the war was over, Sir Francis' service for the king would have made a good mark once the monarchy was established once again.

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