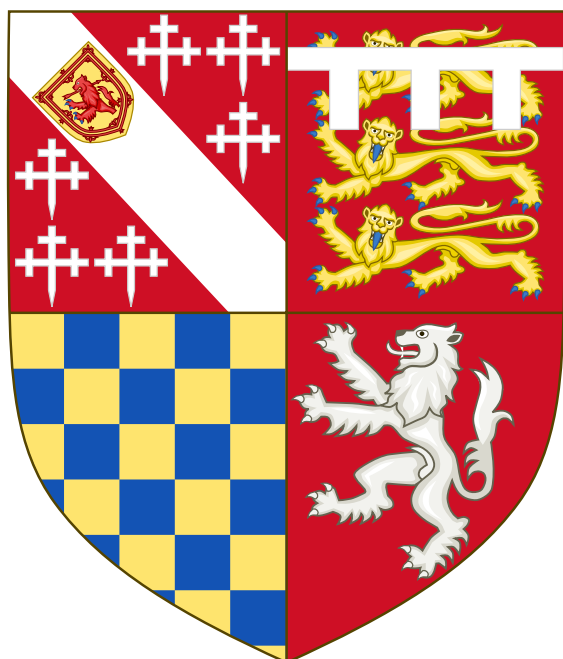


Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk



Arms of Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk

Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk KG PC (1443 – 21 May 1524), styled **Earl of Surrey** from 1483 to 1485 and again from 1489 to 1514, was an English nobleman and politician. He was the only son of John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk, by his first wife, Katherine Moleyns. The Duke was the grandfather of both Queen Anne Boleyn and Queen Catherine Howard and the great grandfather of Queen Elizabeth I. He served four monarchs as a soldier and statesman.

1 Early life

Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk, was born in 1443 at Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk, the only surviving son of John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk, by his first wife, Katherine, the daughter of William Moleyns (d. 8 June 1425) and his wife Margery.^[1] He was educated at Thetford Grammar School.^[2]

2 Service under Edward IV

While a youth he entered the service of King Edward IV as a henchman. Howard took the King's side when war broke out in 1469 with the Earl of Warwick, and took

sanctuary at Colchester when the King fled to Holland in 1470. Howard rejoined the royal forces at Edward's return to England in 1471, and was severely wounded at the Battle of Barnet on 14 April 1471.^[2] He was appointed an esquire of the body in 1473. On 14 January 1478 he was knighted by Edward IV at the marriage of the King's second son, the young Duke of York, and Lady Anne Mowbray (d.1483).^[3]

3 Service under Richard III

After the death of Edward IV on 9 April 1483, Thomas Howard and his father John supported Richard III's usurpation of the throne. Thomas bore the Sword of State at Richard's coronation, and served as steward at the coronation banquet. Both Thomas and his father were granted lands by the new King, and Thomas was also granted an annuity of £1000. On 28 June 1483, John Howard was created Duke of Norfolk, while Thomas was created Earl of Surrey.^[2] Surrey was also sworn of the Privy Council and invested with the Order of the Garter. In the autumn of that year Norfolk and Surrey suppressed a rebellion against the King by the Duke of Buckingham.^[3] Both Howards remained close to King Richard throughout his two-year reign, and fought for him at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, where Surrey was wounded and taken prisoner, and his father killed. Surrey was attainted in the first Parliament of the new King, Henry VII, stripped of his lands, and committed to the Tower of London, where he spent the next three years.

4 Service under Henry VII

Howard was offered an opportunity to escape during the rebellion of the Earl of Lincoln in 1487, but refused, perhaps thereby convincing Henry VII of his loyalty. In May 1489 Henry restored him to the earldom of Surrey, although most of his lands were withheld, and sent him to quell a rebellion in Yorkshire. Surrey remained in the north as the King's lieutenant until 1499.^[3] In 1499 he was recalled to court, and accompanied the King on a state visit to France in the following year. In 1501 he was again appointed a member of the Council, and on 16 June of that year was made Lord High Treasurer. Surrey, Bishop Richard Foxe, the Lord Privy Seal, and Archbishop William Warham, the Lord Chancellor, became the King's 'executive triumvirate'.^[3] He was entrusted



A painting by Mather Brown depicting Norfolk defending his allegiance to Richard III before Henry VII after the Battle of Bosworth Field.

with a number of diplomatic missions. In 1501 he was involved in the negotiations for Catherine of Aragon's marriage to Arthur, Prince of Wales, and in 1503 conducted Margaret Tudor to Scotland for her wedding to King James IV.^[3]

5 Service under Henry VIII



Norfolk's Coat of arms with augmentation

Surrey was an executor of the will of King Henry VII when the King died on 21 April 1509, and played a prominent role in the coronation of King Henry VIII, in which he served as Earl Marshal. He challenged Thomas Wolsey in an effort to become the new King's first minister, but eventually accepted Wolsey's supremacy. Surrey expected to lead the 1513 expedition to France, but was left behind when the King departed for Calais on 30 June

1513. Shortly thereafter James IV launched an invasion, and Surrey, with the aid of other noblemen and his sons Thomas and Edmund, crushed James's much larger force near Branxton, Northumberland, on 9 September 1513 at the Battle of Flodden. The Scots may have lost as many as 10,000 men, and King James was killed. The victory at Flodden brought Surrey great popular renown and royal rewards. On 1 February 1514 he was created Duke of Norfolk, and his son Thomas was made Earl of Surrey. Both were granted lands and annuities, and the Howard arms were augmented in honour of Flodden with an escutcheon bearing the lion of Scotland pierced through the mouth with an arrow.^[3]

6 Final years

In the final decade of his life, Norfolk continued his career as a courtier, diplomat and soldier. In 1514 he joined Wolsey and Foxe in negotiating the marriage of Mary Tudor to King Louis XII of France, and escorted her to France for the wedding. On 1 May 1517 he led a private army of 1300 retainers into London to suppress the Evil May Day riots. In May 1521 he presided as Lord High Steward over the trial of Edward Stafford, 3rd Duke of Buckingham. According to Head, 'he pronounced the sentence of death with tears streaming down his face'.^[3]

By the spring of 1522, Norfolk was almost 80 years of age and in failing health. He withdrew from court, resigned as Lord Treasurer in favour of his son in December of that year, and after attending the opening of Parliament in April 1523, retired to his ducal castle at Framlingham in Suffolk where he died on 21 May 1524. His funeral and burial on 22 June at Thetford Priory were said to have been 'spectacular and enormously expensive, costing over £1300 and including a procession of 400 hooded men bearing torches and an elaborate bier surmounted with 100 wax effigies and 700 candles', befitting the richest and most powerful peer in England.^[4] After the dissolution of Thetford Priory, the Howard tombs were moved to the Church of St Michael the Archangel, Framlingham. A now-lost monumental brass depicting the 2nd Duke was formerly in the Church of St. Mary at Lambeth.

7 Marriages and issue

On 30 April 1472 Howard married Elizabeth Tilney, the daughter of Sir Frederick Tilney of Ashwellthorpe, Norfolk, and widow of Sir Humphrey Bouchier, slain at Barnet, son and heir apparent of Sir John Bouchier, 1st Baron Berners.^[5] They had issue:

- Thomas Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk^[2]
- Sir Edward Howard^[6]



Right: Agnes Tilney, wife of Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk (1443–1524). On her kirtle she displays her paternal arms Azure a chevron between three griffin's heads erased or (Tilney) and on her mantle the quartered arms of Howard (1&4: Gules a bend between six cross crosslets fitchy argent (Howard); 2&3: grand quarterly first and fourth Brotherton second and third Mowbray). Below is inscribed in Latin: Elizabetha nat(a) Tilney ux(or) Thome Howard ("Elizabeth born Tilney wife of Thomas Howard"). Stained glass in Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford, Suffolk

- Lord Edmund Howard, father of Henry VIII's fifth Queen, Catherine Howard^[7]
- Sir John Howard^[2]
- Henry Howard^[2]
- Charles Howard^[2]
- Henry Howard (the younger)^[2]
- Richard Howard^[2]
- Elizabeth Howard, married Thomas Boleyn, 1st Earl of Wiltshire, and was mother of Queen Anne Boleyn, and grandmother of Queen Elizabeth.^[8]
- Muriel Howard (d.1512), married firstly John Grey, Viscount Lisle (d.1504), and secondly Sir Thomas Knyvet^[9]

Norfolk's first wife died on 4 April 1497, and on 8 November 1497 he married, by dispensation dated 17 August 1497, her cousin, Agnes Tilney, the daughter of Hugh Tilney of Skirbeck and Boston, Lincolnshire and Eleanor, a daughter of Walter Tailboys. They had issue:

- William Howard, 1st Baron Howard of Effingham^[10]
- Lord Thomas Howard (1511–1537)^[11]
- Richard Howard (d.1517)^[12]
- Dorothy Howard, married Edward Stanley, 3rd Earl of Derby^[13]
- Anne Howard, married John de Vere, 14th Earl of Oxford^[14]
- Catherine Howard, married firstly, Rhys ap Gruffydd. Married secondly, Henry Daubeney, 1st Earl of Bridgewater.
- Elizabeth Howard (d. 1536), married Henry Radclyffe, 2nd Earl of Sussex.

8 Ancestors

9 See also

- Dukes of Norfolk family tree

10 Footnotes

- [1] Richardson 2004, pp. 236, 504; Cokayne 1936, pp. 41, 612
- [2] Richardson 2004, p. 236
- [3] Head 2008.
- [4] Head 2008; Cokayne 1936
- [5] Richardson 2004, pp. 141, 236; Cokayne 1912, pp. 153–154
- [6] Richardson 2004, p. 236; Loades 2008
- [7] Richardson 2004, p. 236; Warnicke 2008
- [8] Richardson 2004, p. 236; Hughes 2007
- [9] Richardson 2004, p. 236; Gunn 2008.
- [10] Richardson 2004, p. 237
- [11] Richardson 2004, p. 237; Riordan 2004
- [12] Weir 1991, p. 619
- [13] Richardson 2004, p. 237; Cokayne 1916, pp. 209–211
- [14] Richardson 2004, p. 237; Cokayne 1945, pp. 244–245
- [15] Douglas Richardson. *Plantagenet Ancestry: A Study In Colonial And Medieval Families*, 2nd Edition. 2011. pg 267-74.

- [16] Douglas Richardson. *Plantagenet Ancestry: A Study In Colonial And Medieval Families*, 2nd Edition. 2011. pg 523-5.
- [17] Alleged daughter of Henry de Beaumont, 3rd Lord and Margaret de Vere [Douglas Richardson. *Plantagenet Ancestry: A Study In Colonial And Medieval Families*, 2nd Edition. 2011. pg 523.]

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12 Further reading

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- Head, David M. *Ebbs & Flows of Fortune: The Life of Thomas Howard, Third Duke of Norfolk* (1995), 360pp; the standard scholarly biography

13 External links

- Dukes of Norfolk (Howard), Medieval Lands website by Charles Cawley
- Flodden: Scotland's Greatest Defeat

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14.1 Text

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