

A STRANGE TRIP THROUGH THE FAMILY TREE OF THE STANLEY EARLS OF DERBY

This abbreviated genealogy is far from thorough or fancy, but it will serve. To save time, all the data came from Wikipedia. Anything of theirs with editorial bias I avoid like the plague, but simple facts are usable.

To begin: Edward Lear's patron. This is the Lear/Earl beloved by the anagrammers. For the record, Edward Lear's dates are (12 May 1812 – 29 Jan 1888).

Edward Smith-Stanley, 13th Earl of Derby KG

(21 Apr 1775 – 30 Jun 1851), of Knowsley Hall, Lancashire, styled Lord Stanley from 1776 to 1832 and Baron Stanley of Bickerstaffe from 1832-34, was a politician, peer, landowner, art collector and naturalist. He was patron to the poet Edward Lear. Edward was the only son and heir of Edward Smith-Stanley, 12th Earl of Derby, by his wife Elizabeth Hamilton, daughter of James Hamilton, 6th Duke of Hamilton.

----- Edward #13 was the son of -----

Edward Smith-Stanley, 12th Earl of Derby PC

(1 Sep 1752 (OS) – 21 Oct 1834), styled Lord Stanley from 1771-76, was a British nobleman, peer, and politician. Edward was the son of James Smith-Stanley, Lord Strange (1716-1771), son of Edward Stanley, 11th Earl of Derby. (Edward's father predeceased Edward's grandfather the 11th Earl.) Edward's mother was Lucy Smith, co-heiress of Hugh Smith of Weald Hall, Essex. Edward's father Lord Strange assumed the additional surname and arms of Smith by private Act of Parliament in 1747.

----- Edward #12 was the grandson of -----

Edward Stanley, 11th Earl of Derby

(27 Sep 1689 – 22 Feb 1776), known from 1714-36 as Sir Edward Stanley, 5th Baronet, was a British nobleman, peer, and politician. Edward was the son of Sir Thomas Stanley, 4th Baronet, and Elizabeth Patten. Edward's branch of the family, known as the Stanleys of Bickerstaffe, descended from Sir James Stanley, younger brother of Thomas Stanley, 2nd Earl of Derby. James and Thomas were grandsons of Thomas Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby.

This is a big jump, to have to go back through the generations to a descendant of a younger brother of the 2nd Earl, to find the closest male heir to the 10th.

Let's approach it from the other direction.

----- BACK TO HENRY VII'S REIGN -----

Thomas Stanley, 2nd Earl of Derby

(before 1485 – 23 May 1521), was an English nobleman and politician. Thomas was the eldest son of George Stanley, 9th Baron Strange, and Joan Strange, daughter of John Strange, Lord Strange of Knockin, by his first wife, Jacquetta Woodville, daughter of Richard Woodville, 1st Earl Rivers. Thomas was the

grandson of Thomas Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby, and Eleanor Neville, daughter of Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury, by Alice Montagu, daughter of Thomas Montagu, 4th Earl of Salisbury. On 17 December 1505 Thomas married Anne Hastings, daughter of Edward Hastings, 2nd Baron Hastings, and Mary Hungerford.

----- his son (now we move forward in time) -----

Edward Stanley, 3rd Earl of Derby KG

(c 10 May 1509 – 24 Oct 1572), was an English nobleman and politician. Edward inherited the Derby earldom at age 13, and Henry VIII took responsibility for him during his minority. His commissioners included Cardinal Thomas Wolsey. In 1530, Thomas Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk, bought the final year of Edward's wardship and arranged his marriage, without the king's licence, to Norfolk's daughter, Katherine Howard. The king rebuked Norfolk but allowed the marriage, though Katherine died of plague a few weeks later. Norfolk then arranged for his half-sister, Dorothy Howard, to marry the widower.

----- his son was -----

Henry Stanley, 4th Earl of Derby KG

(Sep 1531 – 25 Sep 1593), was an English nobleman and politician. He was an ambassador and Privy Councillor, and participated in the trials of Mary, Queen of Scots [*as did I*] and the Earl of Arundel [*my cousin Tom Howard's son Philip*]. Henry was the eldest son of Edward Stanley, 3rd Earl of Derby, and his 2nd wife, Dorothy Howard. His maternal grandparents were Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk, and Agnes Tilney. On 7 February 1555 Henry married Margaret Clifford, the only surviving child of Henry Clifford, 2nd Earl of Cumberland, and Eleanor Brandon. Queen Mary I and her husband Philip of Spain attended the wedding. They were related to the bride through her maternal grandmother Mary Tudor, Henry VIII's younger sister. Henry and Margaret had four children but eventually chose to live apart.

----- his sons included the following two: -----

Ferdinando Stanley, 5th Earl of Derby

(1559 – 16 Apr 1594), was an English nobleman and politician. He was the son of Henry Stanley, 4th Earl of Derby, and Margaret Clifford. Ferdinando was in the line of succession to Elizabeth I by the will of Henry VIII, after his mother, whom he predeceased. His sudden death, only a few months after his father's, led to suspicion of poisoning amid fears of Catholic plots. Ferdinando supported the arts, enjoying the theatre above all. He patronized writers including Robert Greene, Edmund Spenser, Christopher Marlowe, and William Shakespeare. Shakespeare may have been [*oh those pesky qualifiers*] employed by Strange in his early years as one of Lord Strange's Men, when this troupe of acrobats was reorganized to emphasize the performance of plays. By 1590, Strange's Men were allied with the Admiral's Men, performing at The Theatre.

The digression is misleading where it isn't fictitious, but that's Wikipedia when it comes to Willy Shakspere, always shining him up. Keep this in mind if you go there for anything Bardolatrous.

----- the younger son/brother inherited: -----

William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby KG

(1561 – 29 Sep 1642), was an English nobleman and politician. His prominent social position was both dangerous and unstable, as his mother was the heir of Queen Elizabeth I under the Third Succession Act. William was careful to remain circumspect in politics, devoting himself to administration and cultural projects, including playwriting. His literary works are all lost or unidentified, but in the 1890s he was put forward as a contender for the authorship of the works of Shakespeare, according to some proponents of the Shakespeare authorship question.

William was a younger son of Henry Stanley, 4th Earl of Derby, and Margaret Clifford. Margaret was the heiress presumptive of Queen Elizabeth from 1578 until her death in 1596. After this, Anne Stanley, daughter of William's older brother Ferdinando, became the heir to the throne.

William's candidacy as author of Shakespeare was first proposed in 1891 by James Greenstreet, based on two letters by Jesuit spy George Fenner from 1599, in which Fenner wrote that Derby was unlikely to aid the Catholic cause as he was "busy penning plays for the common players".

HERE'S THE AMUSING BIT:

On 26 January 1595 William married Elizabeth de Vere, eldest daughter of [*yours truly*] Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, and Anne Cecil. Elizabeth's maternal grandparents were William Cecil, 1st Baron Burghley, and his 2nd wife Mildred Cooke. It has been suggested that this marriage inspired Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and that the play was first performed at the couple's wedding festivities.

Has been suggested, lol. The correct answer is Yes. See

<https://edevere17.com/2017/09/13/a-late-summer-afternoons-daydream/> and

<https://edevere17.com/2017/03/18/smell-the-gloves-part-2/#its-so-simple>

The early years of their marriage were tempestuous, including claims that Elizabeth had affairs with Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, and Walter Raleigh. [*No comment.*]

----- their son, my grandson, was -----

James Stanley, 7th Earl of Derby KG

(31 Jan 1607 – 15 Oct 1651), of Lathom House in Lancashire, was an English nobleman, politician, and supporter of the Royalist cause in the English Civil War. He was the eldest son of William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby, by his wife Elizabeth de Vere, daughter of Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford. James was with King Charles II at the Battle of Worcester. Stanley was later captured and tried by court-martial. He was found guilty under the Act of Parliament passed the preceding month, declaring those who corresponded with Charles II to be guilty of treason. Condemned to death, his appeal to Parliament for pardon, although supported by Oliver Cromwell, was denied. He was beheaded on 15 October 1651 at Churchgate, Bolton.

Alas. My daughter had died in 1627, so she didn't have to deal with this.

----- his son, my great-grandson, was -----

Charles Stanley, 8th Earl of Derby

(19 Jan 1628 – 21 Dec 1672), was an English nobleman and politician. He was the eldest son of James Stanley, 7th Earl of Derby, and Charlotte de la Trémouille. They had two sons:

----- the older son, my great-great-grandson, was -----

William Richard George Stanley, 9th Earl of Derby

(c 1655 – 5 Nov 1702), styled Lord Strange from 1655-72, was an English peer and politician. He was the eldest son of Charles Stanley, 8th Earl of Derby, and Dorothea Kirkhoven. William inherited the earldom in 1672. In 1673 he married Elizabeth Butler, daughter of Thomas Butler. His only son predeceased him.

----- the younger son/brother, also my great-great-grandson, was -----

James Stanley, 10th Earl of Derby PC

(3 Jul 1664 – 1 Feb 1736), was a British peer and politician. James was the second son of Charles Stanley, 8th Earl of Derby, and Dorothea Kirkhoven. In 1702, he inherited the earldom from his elder brother. James married Mary Morley, daughter of Sir William Morley and Anne Denham. James died in February 1736, aged 68, with no male heir. The barony of Strange passed to his first cousin once removed, James Murray, 2nd Duke of Atholl. The Derby earldom passed to his distant relative Edward Stanley.

----- my Derby descendants end here, and we return to the 11th Earl -----

Edward Stanley, 11th Earl of Derby

(27 Sep 1689 – 22 Feb 1776), Sir Edward Stanley, 5th Baronet, from 1714-36, was a British peer and politician. Edward was the son of Sir Thomas Stanley, 4th Baronet, and Elizabeth Patten. Edward's branch of the family, the Stanleys of Bickerstaffe, descended from Sir James Stanley, younger brother of Thomas Stanley, 2nd Earl of Derby. James and Thomas were grandsons of Thomas Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby.

If you jump back in time for one more moment, you'll see that Thomas the 1st Earl was the Stanley who married Margaret Beaufort, becoming Henry Tudor's stepfather. Thomas and his younger brother William were known as trimmers, earning the adjective by playing both sides of the fence in the conflict between York and Lancaster. For more of these two brothers and their shared reputation, see

<http://www.ssqq.com/travel/london2017history05.htm>

----- Edward's grandson was -----

Edward Smith-Stanley, 12th Earl of Derby PC

(1 Sep 1752 (OS) – 21 Oct 1834), styled Lord Stanley from 1771-76, was a British nobleman, peer, and politician. Edward was the son of James Smith-Stanley, Lord Strange (1716-1771), son of Edward Stanley, 11th Earl of Derby. (Edward's father predeceased Edward's grandfather the 11th Earl.) Edward's mother

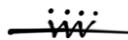
was Lucy Smith, co-heiress of Hugh Smith of Weald Hall, Essex. Edward's father Lord Strange assumed the additional surname and arms of Smith by private Act of Parliament in 1747.

----- his son completes the broken circle back to where we began: -----

Edward Smith-Stanley, 13th Earl of Derby KG

(21 Apr 1775 – 30 Jun 1851), was, among other things, patron to the poet Edward Lear.

Though it would have enhanced my blog post, I cannot claim the 13th Earl of Derby as my descendant. It intrigues me that it came as close as it did. If only James #10 and his wife had managed to produce a boy, or to sneak one into the bedroom inside a warming pan, as another male-heirless James at the time was said to have done. Who'd have been the wiser.



I conclude with Stanley trivia of slightly more recent vintage. I know a few North American colonials who may enjoy it. It's possible they have already guessed where this is going.

Starting one last time with Edward Lear's patron:

Edward Smith-Stanley, 13th Earl of Derby KG

(21 Apr 1775 – 30 Jun 1851), was succeeded by his son,

Edward George Geoffrey Smith-Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby KG, GCMG, etc

(29 Mar 1799 – 23 Oct 1869), thrice Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, sharing that statistic with Bob's Your Uncle Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury. (Gladstone topped them both, with four.) Edward #14's heir was his eldest son,

Edward Henry Stanley, 15th Earl of Derby KG, PC, etc

(21 Jul 1826 – 21 Apr 1893), a statesman who held high Colonial and Foreign Affairs posts. His surname has reverted to the unhyphenated Smithless form, why I don't know. In 1870 Edward married Mary née Sackville-West, widow of James Gascoyne-Cecil, 2nd Marquess of Salisbury. Not going there. The couple had no children, and the earldom passed to his younger brother,

Frederick Arthur Stanley, 16th Earl of Derby KG, GCB, etc

(15 Jan 1841 – 14 Jun 1908), styled Lord Stanley of Preston from 1886-93. He was a Conservative politician, Colonial Secretary, and Governor General of Canada from 1888-93. An avid sportsman, Fred earned everlasting fame in North America by presenting Canada with the Stanley Cup in 1892. The Stanley Cup is now awarded annually to the champion of the National Hockey League.



VERO NIHIL VERIUS