THE HUNGERFORD FAMILY
Introduction

I have been interested in the Hungerford family since becoming a guide at Salisbury Cathedral and have collected information from various sources for my own use. As I am frequently asked for details of the family I have put together a booklet. This is the fifth edition. I shall continue to search for more news of the family, and it is likely that more updates will follow.

Although I have tried to ensure that the information is correct I cannot guarantee that this is so. However, I hope you will find it useful and interesting.

Dennis Martin

14 March 2001
1160 The first recorded name was Everard de Hungerford who was alive in 1160. There is no record of his birth date.

1186 (approx) Walter de Hungerford m Maude de Heytesbury

D 1308 Walter de Hungerford, Baron of Hopgrass
Hopgrass is an estate about one mile from Hungerford which still retains the name.

D 1347 Sir Giles Hungerford
Fought at the Battle of Crecy.

D 1352 Robert de Hungerford
Buried at St Lawrence Church in Hungerford. Married Geva, widow of Adam de Stokke. There were no children. Sir Robert de Hungerford sat in Parliament as MP for Wiltshire nine times between 1324 and 1339. In 1325, in the church of St Lawrence in Hungerford he founded a chantry chapel for masses to be sung for the soul of his wife Geva, and for his soul after his own death. The chantry chapel was in the south aisle, but is there no longer as the original church was completely demolished and rebuilt between 1814 and 1816. All that remains of Sir Robert’s tomb is a badly mutilated stone effigy lying in the NW corner of the nave. Alongside the effigy is a stone tablet 223/4 inches square. In the centre is a square surrounded by a quatrefoil and, in Norman French, is an indulgence of 550 days for all who pray for the soul of Sir Robert on the promises of 14 bishops. Sir Robert was the keeper of the lands in Wiltshire belonging to Thomas Earl of Lancaster, and wore the robes of his livery, which Edward II allowed him to retain after the great Lancastrian forfeiture of 1322.
In 1327 Sir Robert was appointed commissioner to certify the possession of the Earl of Winchester and his son Hugh to the Exchequer. He was also employed to survey the dilapidation of the old castle at Sarum. In 1332 he became the steward of the Bishopric of Bath and Wells. When he died without issue his lands were left to his nephew Thomas.
1286-1355 Walter Hungerford of Heytesbury
Married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Adam FitzJohn of Cherill.
He had one son, Thomas, who began the rise of the Hungerford family.
Sir Walter was the younger brother of Sir Robert. By 1333 he was the Bishop of
Salisbury's bailiff in the cathedral city. He was Knight of the Shire for three
years during the 1330s and Royal Escheator in Surrey, Sussex and Kent during
1335. During the 1340s he was the Coroner for Wiltshire. He followed his
brother as MP for Wiltshire.

Circa 1330-1398 Sir Thomas Hungerford
Buried in the chapel at Farleigh Hungerford.
Married:
i. Eleanor, daughter of Sir John Strug of Heytesbury
ii. Joanne, daughter of Sir Edmund Hussey of Holbrook, and widow of Sir John
Whyton, by whom he had five sons. Thomas, Peter (who died before his father),
Walter (born 22nd June 1378), John, and Robert (of whom little is known).
Between 1357 and 1393 Sir Thomas represented either Wiltshire, Somerset, or
sometimes both, in Parliament. As Speaker between 1357 and 1363 he was
promoted to custody of the Great Seal. At the priory of the Bonnehommes at
Edington in 1365 he founded an obit for himself, his first wife, his parents and
uncle. In 1369 he purchased the estates of Wellow and Farleigh-Montford,
since called Farleigh-Hungerford, from Lord Berghersh for 1100 marks. This
became the chief residence of his descendants. He was appointed in 1360 by
Bishop Wyville, of Salisbury Cathedral, as bailiff of the episcopal manors of
Potterne and Ramsbury, with the right to appoint a deputy. The office carried
with it an annual livery of an esquire's robe and the customary fee of 20 marks.
He retained this appointment until April 1370 when he surrendered it to take the
appointment of Bishop's Bailiff of the City of Salisbury and of the Manors of
Milford and Woodford at an annual fee of £10. By October he was Constable
of Marlborough Castle. He was described in Norman French as 'Merchaunt de
Salisbury'.

In 1360 he was appointed to head a commission to survey the defects in the
structure of Dover Castle. In 1383 he fortified the manor house at Farleigh
Montford into a castle without first obtaining the King's permission. Because
he was in favour he was only fined one mark. It appears that he was Steward of
the Lands of the See of Winchester during the later years of the episcopate of
William of Edington, who was one of the great professional royal administrators.
On the death of Bishop Edington, the executors, of which Sir Thomas was one,
were given the Bishopric of Winchester and all of the temporalities of the see
during the vacancy for the sum of £200 each per month. Two months later
William of Wickham was elected to the see. Due to his earlier connection with
Lord Berghersh, whose niece was the Countess of Salisbury, married to William Montacute the second Earl, he came into the service of the Earl as steward of the Earl's lands for an annual fee of 20 marks plus expenses. He was knighted some time before 1377. He was closely associated with John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and acted for some time as steward to his household, and also of the Duchy of Lancaster south of the river Trent. By 1377 he had purchased the three manors of Heytesbury. It is commonly thought that he was the first Speaker of Parliament. This is not true, in April 1376 Peter de la Mare, Steward of the Earl of March, was named Speaker. The death of the Black Prince in June 1376 weakened the 'Good Parliament' which was shortly dissolved and de la Mare was imprisoned. John of Gaunt was in the ascendancy and his steward, Thomas Hungerford, was elected as Speaker in January 1377 until the death of Edward III on 21st June 1377. In 1380 he was confirmed in the forestership of Selwood. In 1382 confirmed in the estates of Wellow, Farleigh Montford and Heytesbury. Purchased Warminster, West Knoyle, Codford, North Tidworth, Mildenhall, Marlborough, Down Ampney and Ashley.

In about 1384 he aroused the suspicion of Richard II who attached him, but after obtaining a pardon he was confirmed in his free warrant of Farleigh. He died at Farleigh on 8th December 1398 and was buried in the chapel of the castle. He had ordered a chantry at Longleat Priory near his residence at Heytesbury. To support this he enfeoffed North Tidworth Manor.

1378-1449 Sir Walter, Lord Hungerford
Buried in Salisbury Cathedral
Son and heir of Sir Thomas and his second wife Joanne. Married:
i. 1402 Catherine Peverell, of Penhale Cornwall, who bore him four sons and three daughters; Thomas (1404-147?), Walter (1407-1431, no issue), Edmund (1409-1484—settled at Down Ampney), Robert (1409-1459 — succeeded to title and property), Elizabeth (married Sir Philip Courteney, died 1476), Joan born 1411 married John Marvin), and Margaret (born 1413— married Sir Walter Rodney).

ii. Eleanor Berkeley, Countess of Arundel, who bore him no children.

A supporter of the Lancastrian cause, his father having been steward to John of Gaunt. He aided Henry IV to depose Richard II. On the accession of Henry IV he was knighted and given an annuity of £100 per annum. In October 1400 he was elected MP for Wiltshire and re-elected in other years, but in 1409 he was also elected for Somerset. He became Speaker for his last Parliament 1413-1414. A renowned soldier, in 1401 he was with the English army and is reputed to have worsted the French King in a duel outside Calais. He distinguished himself in battle and tournament and received a substantial reward for his services, a sum of 100 marks per annum, payable by the town and castle of Marlborough, Wiltshire, and appointed Sheriff.
In 1415 he was appointed ambassador and envoy for various meetings in Europe. In the same year he was made a member of the Order of the Garter and accompanied Henry V to France, and the battle of Agincourt, with 20 men-at-arms and 60 horse archers. He dared to voice in the King’s hearing the thought that must have been in everyone’s mind – “Would that we had ten thousand more good English archers who would gladly be with us today.” This drew a stinging rebuke from Henry V which has been immortalised by Shakespeare, though he makes Lord Westmorland the offending speaker. He also did well by capturing important prisoners for ransom, which financed the rebuilding of Farleigh Hungerford. Between 1416 and 1419 Sir Walter took part in various diplomatic missions. In 1418 he was made Admiral of the Fleet under John Duke of Bedford, and was with Henry V at the siege of Rouen. In the same year he became the Steward of the King’s Household and for his services at Rouen was granted the barony of Homet in Normandy. In 1421 he became a Knight of the Garter. After the death of Henry V he was one of the executors of the will, and in 1422 became one of the members of the Protector Gloucester’s Council. In 1424 he was made Steward of the Household of the infant King Henry VI and then Treasurer in succession to Bishop Stafford when Bishop Beauchamp resigned the Great Seal in 1426-27 placing Gloucester in supreme power. He acted as Carver during the coronation of Henry VI in Paris in December 1430. On the return of the King he resigned the post of Treasurer. At a council meeting in 1423 the Salisbury Cathedral Chapter was licensed to acquire a £50 income for the repair of the spire and for the increase of divine worship for the soul of the King, and the donors of the new endowment. Walter was present at the meeting and alienated to the Cathedral the land and advowson of St Sampson’s church, Cricklade. In 1429 the property was conveyed and the chapter were bound to maintain a chantry of two priests, Walter’s obit and also to mention Walter and his wife in their Sunday litanies.

Lord Hungerford’s large landed estate was built upon a nucleus of three manors in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. His father’s other lands had been entailed upon the male issue of his second wife and Sir Walter did not succeed to them until 1412. Both his marriages brought lands. The Peverell marriage brought estates in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. In 1422 he inherited from Catherine’s mother the London property later to become Hungerford Market, and later still, Charing Cross railway station. In 1439 the Peverell and Courteney estates, mostly in Somerset, came to him. By 1430 his holdings in land were such that he needed three stewards to look after his interests and another steward was employed for the estates brought to him by his second marriage to Eleanor, Countess of Arundel, in whose right Hungerford held thirteen manors in Dorset, six in Wiltshire, five in Gloucestershire and two in Somerset. In 1440 these manors brought in £700 per annum, a very large sum in those times, and by now his grandson Robert was married to Eleanor Moleyns which brought some 20 or 30
manors in Berkshire, Oxon, Wiltshire and Cornwall. In 1449, the year of his death, he endowed two almshouses in the village of Heytesbury, the Hospitals of St John and St Katharine. He had previously endowed a Chantry Chapel in the church at Heytesbury. Lord Walter died in 1449. In his will he styled himself Lord of Hungerford, Heytesbury and Homet and directed that his body should be buried at Salisbury with his first wife Catherine, within his iron chantry. His memorial is still to be seen in Salisbury Cathedral. He made bequests to various priories in Bath, Bruton, Maiden Bradley, Witham, Hinton and Edington. He also made bequests to the two nunneries of Amesbury and Lacock, 175 marks to be distributed by the Testator's Chantry Chapel at Salisbury to priest-vicars and old priests-perpetual in the Cathedral; 100 marks to poor husbandmen, and a labourer with many children in his own estates. His second wife was to receive all his silver, gold and other chattels but not the 700 marks that she had made over to him on their marriage, as he had already settled her debts at the exchequer and the city. There were smaller bequests to retainers and the more distant members of his family. His household staff were to receive a full year's salary, which amounted to £90. £100 was set aside for funeral expenses, which did not include £12 for bellringing.

Upon his elevation to the peerage he adopted a coat of arms embodying the arms of a number of families, including the Peverells. His seal in 1432 showed a helm and a crest, a coronet with garb between two sickles for the crest and below the helm a couche shield charged with sable, 2 bars argent in chief, three plates for Hungerford, on either side of the shield a large sickle, the well known Hungerford badge, and above these sickles rose two banners, the dexter one bearing Heytesbury per pale indented gules and vert, a chevron or, and the sinister one Hussey Barry of six ermine and gules. His son Robert succeeded to the title and lands.

1407-1435 Walter He had no issue.

In 1425 he fought in France, was taken prisoner and ransomed for 3000 marks, which his father paid. He died in France in 1435 whilst serving in the retinue of the Duke of Bedford. Imprisoned in Provence (France).

1409-1484 Edmund

Married Margaret Burnell, a wealthy heiress. They had six sons and eight daughters: (see pages 20 and 21).

Edmund was knighted by Henry VI on Whit Sunday 1426. Edmund, Walter's third son, had married a daughter of Lord Burnell and brought a settlement of thirteen manors in Surrey, Oxon, Worcestershire, Somerset and Essex when Lord Burnell died. Walter had inherited and settled on his son Edmund the estate of Down Ampney, thus founding the Down Ampney branch of the family.
1406-1459 Robert
Buried in Salisbury Cathedral.
Second, but eldest surviving son of Walter Lord Hungerford. He married Margaret, the wealthy heiress of William Lord Botreaux. Through his wife's inheritance he added very largely to his family's property in Cornwall. He had five children. Lord Robert, born 1431, Arnold, William, Catherine and Mary. Robert served in the French wars. He was summoned to Parliament as Baron Hungerford for the years 1440-1455. He died on 14th May 1459 and was buried, according to his will, in Salisbury Cathedral. His wife, Margaret, like many widows, wanted to prepare herself for her salvation and depicted herself kneeling in prayer, with a bible on her lap. She completed an almshouse in Heytesbury and founded a chantry chapel in Salisbury Cathedral where her husband's body was placed. She had been left enormous problems by her husband and an enormous ransom for her son Robert Lord Moleyns (£6000 plus expenses of over £3000, a great deal of money) for his Lancastrian politics, which led to debt and confiscation of the family estates. She herself was imprisoned three times. By sheer tenacity she managed to retain most of the estates by fair means or foul. Paying off her husband's debts and her religious foundations meant that her expenditure was greater than her income, so she sold lands that should have been her family's inheritance.

1431-1464 Robert, Baron Moleyns and Third Baron Hungerford
Buried in Salisbury Cathedral but there is no trace of his tomb.
Son and heir of Robert, Baron Hungerford and grandson of Walter, Baron Hungerford. He married at a very early age, in 1441, Eleanor daughter of William de Moleyns. They had 3 sons and 1 daughter. Thomas, Leonard, Walter and Frideswide.
Robert was summoned to Parliament in 1445 as Lord Moleyns, in right of his wife, and received no further summonses until 1453. In 1448 he began a fierce quarrel with John Paston regarding the ownership of the Manor of Gresham in Norfolk, acting on the advice of John Heydon, a solicitor, taking forcible possession of the estate. The Bishop of Winchester made an attempt at arbitration and Paston regained possession. In January 1450 Moleyns sent a thousand men to dislodge him, after threatening to kill Paston, who was absent. Moleyns' supporters violently assaulted Paston's wife Margaret. Finally Moleyns had to surrender the manor to Paston. Because of the King's support for Hungerford, Paston had great difficulty in obtaining justice from the Sheriff of Suffolk. In 1452 Moleyns accompanied John Talbot, Earl of Shrewbury, to Aquitaine and in 1453 was taken prisoner while endeavouring to raise the siege of Chastillon, and was ransomed for £6000. This sum was swollen by extras in excess of £12000. The family agreed to accept responsibility to pay this sum. Moleyns' grandmother left 100 marks towards the ransom. In 1459 his father
paid the first instalment of £2000, borrowing the money on the security of Archbishop Bougeher and other bishops and magnates after mortgaging all of his estates. To facilitate the mortgage his mother waived her dower and jointure, accepting a smaller income in lieu. His father also refused payments of legacies the younger sons were left by their grandfather in 1449, on the grounds that he had already made adequate provision for them. On Moleyns’ father’s death he only inherited certain Wiltshire properties. He was finally released in 1459 after six years in captivity. In consideration of his misfortunes he was granted a licence to export 1500 sacks of wool to foreign ports without paying duty, and received permission to travel abroad. He visited Florence. In 1460 he returned home and took a leading part in the War of the Roses, on the Lancastrian side. In 1460 he retired with Lord Scales and other Lancastrian friends to the Tower of London when the Earl of Warwick and his Yorkist followers entered the City of London. After the defeat of the Lancastrians at the Battle of Northampton (10th July 1460) Hungerford surrendered the Tower to the Yorkists on the condition that he and Lord Scales should depart free. After taking part in the battle of Towton, another defeat for the Lancastrians, he fled with Henry VI to York and thence to Scotland. He visited France in the summer of 1461 to obtain help for Henry and Margaret and was arrested by the French authorities. He had some success at rallying the Lancastrians in the north of England, but was taken prisoner at Hexham on 15th May 1464 and was executed at Sandhill, Newcastle. Most of his lands were given to Richard of Gloucester (later Richard III). Other portions of his property were given to Lord Wenlock who was directed by Edward IV to make provision for Hungerford’s wife and young children.

D 1461  Arnold  Brother of Robert, killed in 1461 at the Battle of St Albans.

Frideswide
Daughter of Robert Lord Hungerford – Baron Moleyns.
Because of the £12,000 ransom paid for their father and £6,000 to support Sir Thomas there was not enough money for a dowry so Frideswide became a nun at the great Abbey of Syon Park.

1445-1516 Walter
Buried at Farleigh. Youngest son of Robert, Baron Moleyns and his wife Eleanor. He married Jane, widow of Sir Thomas Bulstrode. They had one son, Edward. Daughter Elizabeth married Sir John Bouchier.
Walter was a partisan in the early days of the House of Lancaster, but obtained a pardon from Richard III on his accession in 1483. He was arrested by Richard on the landing of the Earl of Richmond in 1485 but escaped custody, joining Richard’s army. At the Battle of Bosworth he slew, in hand to hand combat, Sir
HUNGERFORD FAMILY TREE

Everard de Hungerford (Tempo Henry II 1154-1189)

Walter de Hungerford 1230-1308? m. Maude de Heytesbury

Sir Robert D 1352 m. Geva widow of Adam de Stokke

Walter (1286-1355) m. Elizabeth dau. of Sir Adam FitzJohn of Cherill

Sir Thomas m. i. Eleanor dau. of Sir John Strug (c.1320-1398) ii. Joanne dau. of Sir Edmund Hussey Widow of John Whyton

Thomas Peter Sir Walter, 1st Baron Hungerford (1378-1449) m. i. Catherine Peverell ii. Eleanor, Countess of Arundel dau. of Sir John Berkeley

Robert 2nd Lord (C1406-1459) m. Margaret dau of William Lord Botreaux Joan B 1411 m. John Marvin Margaret B 1413 m. Sir Walter Rodney (1447)

Edmund m. Margaret Burnell (C1409-1484)

DOWN AMPNEY BRANCH

Robert (1431-1464) m. Eleanor dau. of Arnold William Catherine Mary Moleyns D 1461 m. Baron de la Warre (D by 1477)

Thomas m. Lady Anne Percy 1552

Walter m. Jane Bulstrode (1440-1469) (1445-1516)

Leonard Frrideswide

Mary m. i. Lord Edward Hastings Edward m. i. Jane dau of Lord Zouche ii. Agnes widow of John Cotell Elizabeth (Isabella)

(1468-1533) (D1522)

Walter 1st Baron of Heytesbury m. i. Susan Danvers ii. Alice Sandys iii. Elizabeth Hussey

Eleanor

Walter m. i. Ann Bassett ii. Anne Dormer Sir Edward m. i. Jane Hungerford ii Cicely Tufton D1608 widow of Will Foster

Maurice m. i. William Master ii. Sir John Hungerford Mary Anne D1613 m. Thomas Shaa

Sir Edward D 1585

Lucy Hungerford m. i. John St John of Lydeard Tregoze ii. Anthony Hungerford of Black Bourton D1627 Jane Susan m. Michael Emle Robert 3 sons 2 daughters

Edward of Corsham m. Margaret Halliday

Catherine Anna Jane Eleanor William Walter Lucy Barbara John Walter D 27.9.1618 Buried in Bath Abbey

End of Hungerford Heytesbury Line