

## THROCKMORTON

In about 1069. [Walter de Beauchamp](#), (part of William the Conqueror retinue), married Emmeline, the daughter of Urse d'Abetot, and through her gained Elmley Castle, which then became the seat of the increasingly powerful Beauchamp family.

In 1268 through his marriage William de Beauchamp, while continuing to hold Elmley Castle, inherited the Earldom of Warwick together with [Warwick Castle](#), becoming the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of one of the most prestigious titles in England.

Elmley, having been retained, was administered by a principal officer and for a time that office was held in turn by members of the eventual Throckmorton family who had held considerable status within the Beauchamp retinue for several centuries.

Since the 7<sup>th</sup> century the manor of Fladbury has been held by the Bishops of Worcester. Originally it was far greater than the present village and covered an area of about 20 square miles. When the land began to produce far more than needed by the bishop's households and retinue they leased out areas as sub manors. Throckmorton is not listed in the 11<sup>th</sup> century Domesday record of the Bishop's holdings and that manor seems to have been formed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is likely that the family which adopted the Throckmorton village name gained the lease of the sub-manor through the influence of the Beauchamp family.

In 1396 Thomas Throckmorton (1) was both Constable (principal officer) of Elmley castle and Escheator, the local official responsible for 'escheats'. Broadly speaking, the escheat's duty was the upholding the king's rights as feudal lord and holding the majority of post-mortem investigations. In 1409-1410 Thomas also held the office of Steward of the all the bishop's estates but died the following year.

His son was Sir John de Throckmorton, an able lawyer who became Under Treasurer of England and in 1409 he married Eleanor Spinetti, heiress of Coughton where the family became established.

When in 1445 John died, Eleanor, his widow and their son, a 2nd Thomas Throckmorton, gained consent to established the Family chantry in the south aisle of Fladbury church. Set in the tomb's Purbeck marble top are the memorial brasses of John Throckmorton and his wife. The Latin inscription reads *'John Throckmorton and Eleanor his wife and Thomas their son. John was under treasurer of England who verily died the twenty third day of April Anno Domini 1445. On whose soul may God have mercy. Amen.'*

Between the tower screen and font are further family memorials including, in full armor, that of Edward Peytoo d.1488, who had married Godyth Olney the daughter of Sir John and sister of Thomas(2). *(The original figure of Godyth his wife was stolen and has been replaced by a replica.)*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Thomas Throckmorton eventually held land in Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Buckinghamshire and from 1459 - 1470 held the office of Steward of the Bishop's estates.

By the 15<sup>th</sup> century many of the upper classes who leased lands from the bishopric ignored the payment of their lease rent and there was a longstanding disagreement between the bishops and the Throckmortons over their non-payment. However the bishop took a liking to Thomas(2) and in 1459 made him his Steward. He still did not pay his dues until shortly before his death, when he made a token payment of £10. He died in 1472 and following his death his widow and successors regularly paid the annual lease fee of £12 and the family, though resident at Coughton Court, continued to lease the land till a few years ago. But from the end of the 15th century, the story of the family belongs to Coughton Court rather than Fladbury.

One final note: People often ask, "As Throckmorton church adjoined their moated manor house at Throckmorton and was built while the family held that village, why are their tombs at Fladbury rather than Throckmorton? The answer is that Throckmorton Church was only a chapelry of Fladbury and in common with several other Fladbury chapelries had no burial rights for these were retained by the mother church. Hence, the tomb and other family memorials are here.

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