

The Calverley Family after 1550 - The Calverleys: Weird and Wonderful Walters, Williams and The Occasional Henry

[Hamza] (0:24 - 0:43)

Welcome to this episode of the Calverley's History. In the next 5-10 minutes we'll dive into the Calverley's rough past after the 1550s. This time I'm going to be focusing on five particular Calverley's, four of whom are named Walter.

This ought to be interesting and not confusing in the least. Sit back and relax if you have that luxury, and let's dive right in.

[Haaris] (0:43 - 3:06)

Now, the first person we'll be talking about in this little episode is someone born in 1579, known as Walter Calverley VI. The naming system of this family just isn't as creative as I hoped. Within this time period, the murders of the young sons before had been brought to the light of the public.

Of course, Walter was also the main suspect. The only thing that stuck out to me in all of this though, was that the entire incident was monetised and had 2 plays and a pamphlet written about it. Now these plays were made since the execution seemed to play a defining part in Jacobian drama, and apparently people really like what they saw.

Back on the topic at hand, not much information is present on what his past says, but some info has been shown. Around the age of 17 years old, Walter suffered with the loss of his father and also became a Ward of Court. The crown had seemed to keep command of the Court of Wards & Liveries and their court masters. However, it seemed to prove itself as a money making method too, and a rather unjust one at that.

Walter had also gone to London during this time. By May 1599, he had gained the interest of a woman known as Philippa Brooke, the cousin by marriage of Robert Cecil himself, newly appointed Master of Wards and the most powerful courtier.

Now, Philippa seemed to be about 15 at the time of these events, with her death recorded at 1613 when she was 28. Now I couldn't uncover too much, as this would be a very long episode, but like all the other family members, he died. He was recorded as deceased on August 5th in the year 1603.

I'm rather unsure on what had killed him, but my hypothesis is probably a suicide attempt or being forced to accept death in an incident involving the murders. Either way, he was not breathing anymore.

The second person we'll be discussing the existence of, is someone I partially understood. This is none other than Henry Calverley. For once, it's a new name. (Thank God!) Now, according to the info I have, the debts of William, Henry's predecessor, were somehow pardoned due to an act of lenience.

Philippa then left Calverley after the murders that happened, you know, like any normal person would, and took the baby, who was their son, Henry. The reason why she was able to take the son was most likely due to the wardship she was granted after the crown had managed to take a third of the estate.

[Hamza] (3:07 - 3:56)

Several years after this little moment, there seemed to be a legal action Henry had brought against his stepfather in the Court of Wards once he was old enough. Judgement had then fully passed on in 1627 and soon after the murders had passed, Philippa remarried to Sir Thomas Burton Baronet. Apparently, Tom had shared in Henry's wardship, which was profiting from the Calverley rents too.

After the death of Philippa, Henry was left as an orphan at 10 years old. When he turned 21 years old, he was made a match to Elizabeth Moore by Burton himself. Elizabeth was the daughter of Alexander Moore of Grantham.

Meanwhile, during the wedding, Burton prepared a general release which pardoned him from any liability in relation to the management of the Calverley lands. He then pressured Henry to agree to sign this release as soon as he became of age.

[Haaris] (3:56 - 5:29)

In a later deposition, while ignorant of his position, Henry stayed clear away from Yorkshire. This was also after he had signed a general release, that he had realised that Burton had Henry wrapped around his finger the whole time. And of course, Philippa expected this to happen.

So, despite some regulations involving Thomas Burton and the wardship, Philippa had written a list of things to do for Henry to understand when he was of age, and also made sure the income from the tenants of the Calverley house would be sent to him instead. That's why he got drawn up a list of dilapidations to buildings and an inventory of furniture and chattels, including those which Sir Thomas himself had removed to his own house, and then settled the whole dispute in court. Fortunately, Henry had been ruled in favour.

However, around 1628, Henry had remarried to Joyce Pye, the daughter of Sir Walter Pye. After Elizabeth had met her end in 1627. Joyce had produced an heir at the same time and four more children. Honestly, if Henry really regretted his decision, he shouldn't have made the deal without reading the fine print.

The only interference seemed to show itself during the country descending into civil war, but it seems nothing was told about Henry's decisions at the time. November 1648 had marked the moment where our man had been before the Committee for the Compounding of Delinquencies. This was a mechanism for restoring the land and property stolen from their opponents after all the payments were made. In other words, somewhat squatting.

[Hamza] (5:29 - 6:19)

So apparently, Henry had a fine of £1,515, revolving around a property landmark called Cawood Castle. Henry had continued to plead for a review and his fine reduced to £1,455 shortly after.

The amount was still slightly too high though, according to Sir Walter Pye. The Board of Sequestrators had shown no leniency and charged confiscation or prison for a delayed payment penalty. Henry then sold two outlying estates for less than their value as a way to pay debt. Not a very clever move, Henry.

However, even with this and the fact that Henry's cousin Hugh Calverley had given the estate saying that a lump sum would be given as his widow's endowment in return, he still couldn't get the inheritance.

[Haaris] (6:19 - 6:50)

Finally, in April 1651, Henry paid the outstanding balance on his fine and saved the Calverley family estate. It was a horrible time for Henry and things showed itself afterwards. Worn out by the worry of it all, Henry died at just 47 years old in 1651 at Calverley.

He left his 22-year-old son, Walter Calverley VII, a greatly diminished income and lots of debt. Well, Henry, you had a good run, but it still wasn't enough.

[Hamza] (6:51 - 9:35)

Next on the list is Sir Walter Calverley VII, who didn't have to look far for a "good wife". I say "good wife" with air quotes here because that could be considered subjective. He married Frances Thompson in 1659 when he was 30.

She had no siblings but did have some wealth to her name. When King Charles II came to the throne after the end of Oliver Cromwell's rule, this Walter Calverley was among a group of men who proposed to become the King's Knights of the Royal Oak. Unfortunately for these men, the plan of an order for the king never came to be due to fears that it would divide the people even more.

After Frances's father passed away, Walter and his betrothed moved into the Esholt Estate and there they had three children, Anne in 1663, Bridget in 1665, and Walter VIII in 1670. Walter VII passed away in 1691 and his son reports that his body was kept in the Hall Chapel at Calverley Old Hall for three days before changing location to the family vault in St. Winfrid's.

Second to last is Sir Walter VIII, First Baronet. His memorandum book published by 1886 by Surtees Society recorded his birth as well as the births and deaths of relatives and business dealings and instructions as well as his travels. This is also how we know that his father's body was kept in the Old Hall for three days before being passed to church.

Sir Walter VIII went to school in Calverley but in 1687 he started going to Queen's College in Oxford. After his dad's demise, he inherited responsibility of the estate. In his spare time, Sir Walter VIII enjoyed cockfighting as well as selling and trading his horses to his friends.

He married Julia Blackett in 1706 and had a son in the same year. The son's name was, well, of course, Walter.

Finally, we have Sir Walter Calverley IX, Second Baronet. Walter was forced to marry Elizabeth Ord and retire his family name as a deal that his father and mother had made in exchange for the estate his uncle had left behind. Walter's wife and only child, Elizabeth

Blackett, both died in 1758 and the Blackett property was to go to Walter's cousins rather than his own Calverley family. Walter IX sold both Calverley Old Hall and the Esholt Estate to Mr. Thomas Thornhill of Fixby for £112,000.

That's all for today. Thank you for tuning in to the Calverley's Weird and Wonderful Walters, Williams, and the Occasional Henry.

Although I must say there is a severe lack of Williams after the 1550s. That makes our title inaccurate. We apologize deeply for this oversight. However, if you do wish to learn about a William Calverley or two, then you may have better luck with Leon and Jordan's episode where they cover members of the Calverley's before 1550.

We hope you've enjoyed your time. We have been your hosts, Haaris and Humza, and until the next time you play this episode or reproduce another one in the future, see ya!