13th Great Grandparents - Mary Berkeley (Thomas Perrot) - A Page in History

Mary Berkeley, was the daughter of Sir James (of Thornbury) Berkeley and his wife Susan FitzAlan. (Thornbury is a market town on South

FITZAIAN. (Thornbury is a market town on Soul Gloucestershire, England).

Mary Berkeley was born c1511 at Berkeley Castle in the village of Berkeley, Gloucestershire, England.

Mary was just 4/5 years of age when her father James Berkeley died and her uncle Maurice Berkeley became her 'ward' (*legal guardian*). In 1526 Mary Berkeley was married, *at quite a young age*, to Sir Thomas Perrot of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire, Wales.

Thomas Perrot had also lost his father, Owen Perrot, when Thomas was 14/15 years of age. Thomas Perrot was to also become a 'ward' of the same Maurice Berkeley.

Upon the marriage, and contingent on the will of Maurice, Lord Berkeley, who died in 1523, the considerable sum of 500 marks was settled on the young married couple.

Mary Perrot (nee Berkeley) gave birth to 3 children:

- **✓** Jane Perrot (married William Phillips)
- ✓ Elizabeth Perrot (married Pryse/Price)
- ✓ Sir John Perrott (married Jane Prust)
 - o First President of Munster, Ireland
 - Lord Deputy of Ireland

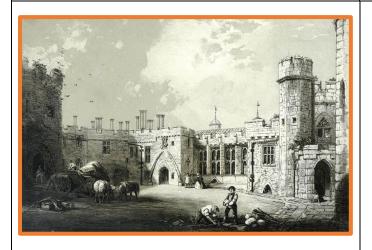
Thomas Perrot (husband of Mary Berkeley) was to die in 1531 at the very young age of 26 years leaving Mary as a young widow.

Pedigree Chart		
Joseph Barton to Mary Berkeley		
1	Joseph Barton	Johanna Butler
2	James Barton	Margaret Brett
3	Thomas Barton	Hannah Balls
4	Thomas Balls	Mary Lewin
5	Robert Lewin	Mary Hensman
6	Mark Hensman	Rachel Woodward
7	Thomas Woodward	Frances Wingate
8	Francis Wingate	Ann B Annesley
9	Arthur Annesley	Elizabeth Altham
10	Francis Annesley	Dorothy Phillips
11	John W Phillips	Anne Perrott
12	John Perrott	Jane Prust
13	Thomas Perrot	Mary Berkeley

Mary Berkeley – further marriages

The widow Mary Perrot (nee Berkeley) was to marry again:

- 2nd Married politician Thomas Johnes (Jones) c1832
- 3rd Married Rowland Pughe





Mary Berkeley was born at Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire, England Maurice Berkeley (Uncle of Mary) When Mary Berkeley was 4/5 years old, her father James Berkeley died. Mary became a 'ward' of her uncle Maurice

The Life of Mary Berkeley was a mixture of Rumour, Speculation and Intrigue

Central figures in the rumours, speculation and intrigue include the following:



King Henry VIII (1491-1547)

<u>Mary Berkeley</u> was rumoured to be a mistress of King Henry VIII.





Catherine of Aragon
(1485-1536)
1st wife of King Henry VIII
Anne Boleyn
(C1501-1536)
2nd wife of King Henry VIII
Mary Berkeley may have
been a member of Catherine
of Aragon's household!



John Perrot (1528-1592) Son of Mary Berkeley

Was John Perrot the son of:

- Thomas Perrotor
- King Henry VIII

In various extracts from the internet opinions are quite diverse regarding the relationship (if any) of Mary Berkeley and King Henry VIII:

[The History Jar - Henry VIII's wives, mistresses and bastards – a summary - Posted on October 1, 2017]

John Perrot 'Historians are divided in their opinions about this man as there is very little evidence to support his claim. Mary Berkeley lived in the Welsh Marches with her husband Sir Thomas Perrot. Thomas was keen on hunting – as was Henry VIII. It is just possible that the king enjoyed a spot of hunting with Sir Thomas Perrot and also enjoyed other recreational pursuits with his wife. The result, according to John Perrot – was him. John turned up at court, got into a fight with Henry's men at arms but managed to keep his right hand because the king liked the look of the boy. Edward VI seems to have liked him as well and he was one of the four gentlemen selected to carry Elizabeth's canopy of state at her coronation.

This is, of course, all circumstantial – and yes, he is supposed to have looked like Henry VIII.'

[History Extra – Henry VIII's mistresses: who else did the Tudor king sleep with?]

'Given Henry's desire for an heir, it is unsurprising that various stories survive that connect him with illegitimate paternity. The timing of these is interesting, with three in particular, dating from the period when the king was wooing Anne Boleyn and, apparently, refraining from sex. If Henry did not sleep with Anne Boleyn until 1532, Tudor medicine would have advised him not to remain completely celibate, as this would have been thought to imperil his health. Accordingly, Henry may have sought solace elsewhere.

Mary Berkeley had been married in 1526 to her uncle's ward, Thomas Perrot, settling in Pembrokeshire. Perrot had been knighted by Henry that year and was a great hunter; it is thought that Mary was part of Catherine of Aragon's household, placing the pair at court during these years.

Mary Berkeley's eldest son, John Perrot, was born in November 1528 and reputedly bore a great resemblance to the king. As a young man John was in the king's favour – Henry once intervened to prevent him from being punished after he was drawn into a brawl. Later involved with piracy, debt, deception and scandal, John's reputed parentage may have been a convenient way to escape retribution.

In the same way, another man claimed to be Henry's son, with perhaps the same intentions. Thomas Stukeley was employed as a standard bearer in 1547, placing him in his late teens. The son of Jane Pollard, who was married in around 1520 to Sir Hugh Stukeley, Thomas is thought to have been conceived when Henry stayed at their Devon home of Affeton Castle. Thomas was something of a romantic figure, and poems and plays written about him after his death (for example, George Peele's 1590s work The Battle of Alcazar) served to inflame such rumours.'

[MISTRESSES of the King - The Tudors Wiki]

Another alleged lover of Henry VIII's was Mary Berkeley. We know very little about her, except that she was the daughter of James Berkeley, a courtier. Estimates of her date of birth range from 1495 to 1500 making her a little younger than Henry. She married for the second time after her husband's death in 1531 to Sir Thomas Jones. Her third child, Sir John Perrot was born around 1527. She is alleged to have borne two bastards to Henry; Perrot and Sir Thomas Stucley.

This shows how confused these stories are -- Thomas Stucley's (pictured left) mother wasn't Mary Berkeley, it was Jane Pollard, the daughter of Sir Lewis Pollard, and his father was Sir Hugh Stucley of Affeton. There is certainly nothing to prove a connection to <u>King Henry VIII</u>. Stucley lived from around 1525-- towards the end of Henry's affair with <u>Mary Boleyn</u> -- until 1578. His portrait (left) shows a tall man posing in a Henrician style, but there is no obvious resemblance to the Monarch, and it is this alleged resemblance that is the basis for the claim.

Stucley did not manage to impress Henry's legitimate children. He was imprisoned in the <u>Tower of London</u> by Edward VI. Stucley claimed to the council that the French were planning to invade Calais; they did not believe him. He was released by Queen Mary but began counterfeiting coins, ran up huge debts and became involved in piracy....



Elizabeth I pretending to be outraged by Stucley's piracy, which was being criticised by the European powers he was robbing, arrested him in 1565 but soon gave him a full pardon...In 1577 Pope Gregory III gave him money to invade Ireland, a catholic country being dominated by its Protestant neighbour. Instead he decided to fight for Portugal against Morocco and was killed in Battle''.'' ~ Kelly Hart's Mistresses of Henry VIII (2009)

'Contrary to the popular and oft-quoted myth (the origin of which may be attributed to the work of Sir Robert Naunton*), Perrot's mother was never a mistress of Henry VIII and he, consequently, was not the king's bastard son. His parents' marriage was arranged at great cost by Maurice, Lord Berkeley, who had purchased the wardship and marriage of both Mary, his niece, and Thomas Perrot two years after the death of Thomas's father, Sir Owen, in December 1521. Upon their marriage, sometime after Thomas came of age in August 1526, and contingent on the will of Maurice, Lord Berkeley, the considerable sum of 500 marks was settled on the young couple. Like his father (Sir Owen died aged forty-one) and elder brother (Robert died aged eighteen in 1522), Thomas died tragically young, aged twenty-six years, on 19 September 1531'. ~Oxford entry on John Perrot.

[Tudor Place (Capt. Sir Knight] Born in 1527 to Sir Thomas Perrot and Mary Berkeley; presumed to be a bastard son of Henry VIII. Mary Berkeley was the daughter of James Berkeley of Thornbury and Susan FitzAlan. There is no documentation to support the story that she was at court as a lady in waiting and yet the rumour persists that she might have borne not one, but two sons to Henry VIII in the period 1525-1530. The first was Thomas Stucley or Stukeley. Around 1526, Mary Berkeley wed Thomas Perrot of Haroldston. The marriage was arranged by Mary's uncle, Maurice, Lord Berkeley. Both Mary and Thomas were his wards. The sum of 500 marks was settled on the couple. Mary's son, Sir John Perrot bore such a strong resemblance to Henry VIII that he was widely believed to be the king's illegitimate son, but again there seems little evidence of this.

Educated at St. Davids in Pembrokeshire, at age 18 was placed in the service of William Paulet, the Marquis of Winchester. He possessed great physical strength, a violent disposition and a reputation for brawling. Because of this he owes a personal introduction to Henry VIII, he was involved in a fracas with two yeoman of the guard. Henry made him a Promise of Preferment, but died before he could fulfill it.

[Wikipedia] John Perrot was born in November 1528 to Mary Berkeley, the wife of Sir Thomas Perrot. John Perrot resembled Henry VIII in temperament and physical appearance, and it was believed he was the bastard son of Henry VIII.

His mother had been, briefly, mistress of Henry VIII, and his paternity has been ascribed to the King whom he resembled in physique and colouring.

"The main source for this belief was Sir Robert Naunton (husband of Perrot's granddaughter, Penelope), who had never known Perrot and used second-hand accounts to make his case. The case is weakened by the fact that Perrot was Mary Berkeley's third child, not her first, and that she and the King are not recorded to have been in the same place at the crucial time.

Naunton claimed that Sir Owen Hopton, Lieutenant of the Tower of London, overheard Perrot say, "Will the Queen suffer her brother to be offered up as a sacrifice to the envy of his frisking adversaries?", suggesting that Perrot himself asserted his royal paternity. However, Hopton had been removed from office by the Queen eighteen months prior to Perrot's imprisonment, so he could not have overheard Perrot make the claim there."

Irrespective of the parentage of John Perrot:

- Anne Perrot (11th Great Grandparent)
- John Perrot (12th Great Grandparent) and
- Mary Berkeley (13th Great Grandparent) are our direct Barton ancestors!