



HISTORY OF TAMWORTH CASTLE

[Document subtitle]

FISHER-PAYNE Chloe
[Course title]

facts about the castle

- The castle was built in 1070 by the Normans
- King offa used to reside in the castle.
- Royal families used to stay in the castle during festive seasons.
- Tamworth used to be the capital of Merica
- The last living resident to live in the castle was in 1897

Table of Contents

Saxon times.....	4
Medieval times (1066-1485)	5
Tudor times.....	6
Stuart times	7
Georgian times.....	8
Victorian period	9
Present day	10

Saxon times

The Anglo Saxons came to Tamworth in the late 6th century . The name Mercia comes from the Anglo Saxon word (micerce) which means boundary . The Saxons conquered most of Staffordshire to form a powerful kingdom known as Mercia .Mercia ran from the river Humber to the river Thames . The rest of the country was ruled by kingdoms in Northumbria and Essex. The Saxon castle was located near St Editha's church in the 7th century the castle would have been made out of Timber.



The above image is of a Saxon knight which is made out of flowers.

Medieval times

The castle that is situated in the towns castle grounds was built by the Normans in 1070. The evidence to prove this is the herringbone masonry pattern located on the castle wall this is a well known Norman design. During Norman times the castle belonged to Robert le Dispenser . Upon on his death the castle was passed to his nieces' as he had no children to inherit the castle. In 1100 the castle was owned by the Robert Marmion. The Marmion family held the castle for nearly two centuries . Phillip Marmion was the last of his family to own the castle, after his death the passed to his daughter after her death it was inherited by Joan and Alexander Freville . Joan was Phillip Marmion's niece .



Norman Herringbone Masonry
wall That still exists today

Tudor times

During the Tudor times the castle belonged to the Ferrer family, who owned the castle for nearly 300 years. During their time living in the castle they redesigned the castle to make it more appealing with Tudor influences . For example in 1437 Thomas Ferrer built the very first Timber beamed great hall . As time Transitioned into the Elizabethan period Lord Humphrey revamped the castle to give a more Elizabethan vibe . During the English Civil war the Ferrer's fled the Castle.



Stuart times

After the war the Ferrer's returned to the castle . During this time in 1643 the castle was sieged by parliament and captured by Oliver Cromwell's forces . The castle was only under parliament control for two days. During 1638 and up until 1754 the castle was owned by the Shirley's and the Compton's who rented the castle out to a number of people one of which was Walter Millward who according to documentation from 1730 lists him as living in the castle.



Georgian times

In 1714 George Townshend inherited the castle through the marriage of his wife lady Charlotte. Though they owned the castle it is believed they didn't live in it. This is due to the castle being reported of have been in a bad state during the Georgian times. As apparently the castle had been neglected.

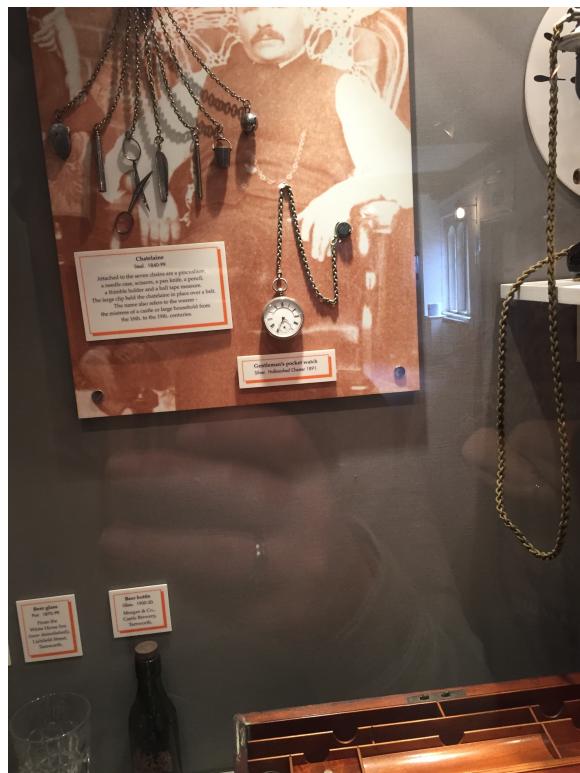
When George's son inherited the castle after his mother the lady Charlotte died. He repaired and renovated the castle, he removed the top attic. The Elizabethan wing was renovated to make it more Georgian . The castle grounds were also landscaped. Unfortunately when George the second died he died bankrupt due to all the work he paid for. For a short time the castle was sold to a London lawyer John Robins , though in 1833 the Townshend family bought it back and it was rented out.



Victorian period

During this time one of the tenants that rented the castle from the Townshend family was miss Hester Wolfestan she lived in the castle with her footman and two maids according to the 1851 census. She was 72 when she passed away in 1861.

After Hester's death in 1867 Thomas cook who was a local businessman , lived in the castle . He owned factories in Tamworth that provided 500 jobs for the local people . Thomas was a widower and lived in the castle with his grown up family . He married again at 61 and had a daughter. The Townshend family sold the castle to the Tamworth cooperation(now know as Tamworth Borough Council) The council officially bought the castle in 1897 for £3,000 . The council then turned the castle into a museum which officially opened in 1899.



Present day

Today the castle is still a museum , which is still owned by the council who look after the castle and are responsible for repairs . There is also a number of staff and volunteers who work at the castle as tour guides and actors. Many local schools go on trips to the castle to learn about the heritage. The castle is also a licenced wedding venue .The castle has 15 rooms that are fully furnished and are open to the public. There are also some items of the Staffordshire hoard on display at the castle. In the Castle grounds there is also varies events at certain times of the year such as jousting events in the summer , as well as firework displays in November. There is also a gift shop near the castle that sells stationary .ice creams and various other castle themed gifts. Further into the castle grounds is a children's play area.

