

= Henry Percy , 3rd Earl of Northumberland =

Henry Percy , 3rd Earl of Northumberland , ( 25 July 1421 ? 29 March 1461 ) was an English magnate .

The Earldom of Northumberland was one of the greatest fifteenth @-@ century landholdings in northern England ; Percy also became Lord Poynings on his marriage . This title would bring him into direct conflict with the Poynings family themselves , and indeed , feuds with neighbouring nobles , both lay and ecclesiastical , would be a key occupancy of his youth .

Percy married Eleanor Poynings , who outlived him ; together they had four children . He was a leading Lancastrian during the Wars of the Roses , from which he managed to personally benefit , although his father died early in the war . He was not , however , to live to enjoy these gains , being killed at the Battle of Towton in 1461 on the defeated Lancastrian side .

= = Early life and war with Scotland = =

Percy was the son of Henry Percy , 2nd Earl of Northumberland , and Lady Eleanor Neville , daughter of Ralph Neville , 1st Earl of Westmorland , and his second wife , Joan Beaufort .

Percy was knighted in 1426 together with Henry VI . He was appointed Warden of the Eastern March on the Scottish border on 1 April 1440 , originally for four years , and subsequent extensions in 1444 , and 1445 , for the next seven years . This came as well with the custody of Berwick Castle and responsibility for its defence . He was to hold this post until March 1461 . In May 1448 , Percy , with his father and Sir Robert Ogle , invaded Scotland in a pre @-@ emptive defence of the border , and burnt Dunbar and Dumfries , for which , in revenge , the Scots attacked his father 's castles of Alnwick and Warkworth . King Henry made his way north , and whilst at Durham sent Percy ? now Lord Poynings ? to raid Dumfriesshire ; the sortie ? " only to return with some 500 cattle " ? of around 5 @, @ 000 men failed , and he was captured whilst caught in a marsh following his father 's defeat at the River Sark on 23 October . Sir Robert Ogle was now outlawed and the king used half of his estates to compensate Poynings for the ransom he had expended arranging his release from captivity . Tensions with Scotland remained , to the extent that Poynings , his father , and other nobles were requested to stay and guard the border rather than attend Parliament , for which they were excused . In summer 1451 , with an Anglo @-@ Scottish truce pending , Poynings was commissioned to treat with Scottish embassies . In July 1455 , he successfully prevented an assault on Berwick by the Scottish King , James II , and was congratulated by the English King as a result .

= = Feud with the Poynings = =

In the late 1440s , the Yorkshire tenants of his father , the Earl of Northumberland , were in almost constant conflict with their neighbours , those of the Archbishop of York , involving armed skirmishes which Percy 's brothers led . These events were deemed so severe that in 1448 they led to the only progress north for the King during his reign . The same year , because of a dispute over the inheritance his family received as a result of Henry Percy 's marriage , the Earl of Northumberland 's retainers had ejected the earl 's relative , Robert Poynings , from his Sussex manors . A year later , Henry Percy ? now Lord Poynings by right of his wife ? took direct part , with his father , in raiding the manor of Newington Bertram in Kent , which was also enfeoffed by Robert . This attack also apparently involved cattle rustling and theft , and Robert later claimed it to be so brutal that he was " deterred from seeking a remedy at law for three years " .

= = Feud with Nevilles = =

By the early 1450s , relations with a powerful neighbouring family , the Nevilles became increasingly tense , and Poynings 's brother Thomas , Lord Egremont , had finally ambushed a Neville force , returning from a wedding , near Sheriff Hutton . with a force of between 1 @, @ 000 and 5 @, @ 000 men . Although this was a bloodless confrontation , a precedent for the use of force

in this particular dispute had already been laid in the previous violence in the region . By October 1453 , Poynings was directly involved , with his father , brothers Egremont and Richard , and joined by Lord Clifford , in forcing a battle with John and Richard Neville at Topcliffe . The feud continued into the next year , when Poyning reportedly planned on attending parliament accompanied by a large force of men in February , and three months later both he and the earl were summoned by the king to attend council in attempt to impose a peace ; a second letter was " written but not despatched " . Neither , along with John Neville or Salisbury , did as requested .

= = Wars of the Roses = =

During the Wars of the Roses , Percy followed his father in siding with the Lancastrians against the Yorkists . The Earl himself died at what is generally considered to be the first battle of the wars , at St Alban 's on 22 May 1455 , and Poynings was elevated as third Earl of Northumberland , without having to pay relief to the Crown , due the fact that his father had died in the King 's service . He in his turn " swore to uphold the Lancastrian dynasty " . Although a reconciliation of the leading magnates of the realm was attempted in October 1458 in London , he arrived with such a large body of men ( thought to be around 1 @, @ 500 ) that the city denied him entry . The new earl and his brother Egremont were bound over £ 4 @, @ 000 each to keep the peace . When conflict broke out again , he attended the so @-@ called Parliament of Devils in October 1459 , which condemned as traitors those Yorkists accused of , among other offences , causing the death of his father four years before . On 30 December 1460 , Percy led the central " battle " or section of the victorious Lancastrian army at the Battle of Wakefield , following which , the army marched south , pillaging on the road to London . He fought against Warwick at the second Battle of St. Alban 's on 17 February 1461 , and he commanded the Lancastrian van at the Battle of Towton on 29 March 1461 , however , " his archers were blinded by snowstorms " , and he was either slain in close fighting , or died of his wounds soon after . He was buried at St Denys 's Church , York . He was posthumously attainted by the first parliament of the victorious Edward IV in November 1461 , and his son and namesake was committed to the Tower .

= = Estates , offices and finances = =

The estates of the Earls of Northumberland had traditionally been in constant use as a source of manpower and wages in defence of the border since the Percy family first gained the office the previous century . The wages assigned to the third Earl were substantial : £ 2 @, @ 500 yearly in time of peace , and £ 5 @, @ 000 during war , as well as an annual payment for the maintenance of Berwick 's upkeep ( £ 66 in peacetime and £ 120 in wartime ) . Percy often had to provide from his own resources , however , as " securing payment was not easy " from the Exchequer , ( for example , in 1454 he received no payments at all ) . In July 1452 he gained a twenty @-@ year fee @-@ farm ( £ 80 yearly , from Carlisle ) , although he subsequently lost it in favour of Richard Neville , Earl of Salisbury , in July 1454 . Throughout the 1450s , the Crown continually made efforts at paying Percy his Warden 's wages and fees promptly ( paying him full wartime rates for the whole of the year 1456 @-@ 7 , for example ) , and since he was a loyal Lancastrian he achieved this more often than his counterpart on the west march , Salisbury , who by now had publicly aligned himself with York . The fee farm of Carlisle was returned to Percy in November 1459 , following Salisbury 's attainder in Coventry . He also benefited from the attainder of York , being granted an annuity of £ 66 from the latter 's forfeited Wakefield Lordship in Yorkshire ; he also received £ 200 from the profits of Penrith .

As a reward for his role in the Lancastrian victory at Ludford Bridge , he was made Chief Forester north of the River Trent and the Constable of Scarborough Castle on 22 December 1459 for life . He was nominated to a wide @-@ ranging commission of oyer and terminer ( from the old French , literally a commission " to hear and determine " ) on 30 May 1460 , his new rank was a tactic to deal with the treasons and insurrections in Northumberland . On 3 July , he was granted Yorkshire , Derbyshire , and Cambridgeshire , all belonging to Salisbury , on a twelve @-@ year lease . After

the Yorkists captured Henry VI at the Battle of Northampton in 1460 , they accused Percy of having looted York 's northern estates during his exile in Ireland . This charge was likely to have had some truth in it , as it was his continued pillaging of those estates , with the Lords Clifford and Dacre , that led to York marching north to Wakefield in December 1460 . These incomes , however collected , would have been vital to the Earl both personally and militarily as his northern estates especially had been a victim of feudal decline for most of the first half of the fifteenth century : even on the forfeit of the earldom to the Crown in 1461 , his arrears have been calculated as still standing at approximately £ 12 @, @ 000 .

= = Family = =

At the arrangement of his father and Cardinal Beaufort in 1434 , he married on or before 25 June 1435 , Eleanor Poynings ( c.1422 ? 11 February 1484 ) , de jure suo jure Lady Poynings , daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Poynings of Poynings in Sussex , by his second wife , Eleanor Berkeley , daughter of Sir John Berkeley of Beverston Castle in Gloucestershire . She was heir general in 1446 to her grandfather , Robert Poynings , 4th Baron Poynings , to the Lordship of Poynings , with lands across the south of England . He was summoned to Parliament from 14 December 1446 to 26 May 1455 , by writs directed Henrico de Percy , chivaler , domino de Ponynge . His wife was a legatee in the 1455 will of her mother , Eleanor , Countess of Arundel ( widow of the thirteenth Earl of Arundel ) . They had one son and three daughters :

Henry Percy , 4th Earl of Northumberland ( c.1449 ? 28 April 1489 ) , who married Maud Herbert , daughter of the first Earl of Pembroke .

Margaret Percy ( b. c . 1447 ) , who married Sir William Gascoigne

Elizabeth Percy ( 1460 ? 1512 ) , who married Henry Scrope , 6th Baron Scrope of Bolton .

Anne Percy ( 1444 ? 1522 ) , who married Sir Thomas Hungerford in 1460 .

= = Ancestry = =