

The Puckerings and The Priory - Key Dates and *Characters

597 AD	*St Augustine
1114-1117	*Henry De Newburgh – Building of St Sepulchre Priory at Warwick
1187	The Fall Of Jerusalem. St Sepulchre’s becomes an Augustinian Priory.
1536	Dissolution of the Monasteries under *Henry VIII – Surrender of Warwick Priory to The Crown.
1546	Purchase of the Priory Site by *Thomas Fisher (employee of *Seymour) from *John Dudley
1546-1566	Priory Demolished / Rebuilt as Tudor Mansion – Hawkin’s Nest
1571	Visit by *Robert Dudley, Earl of Leycester. Death of *William Parr.
1572	Visit by *Queen Elizabeth 1
1577	Thomas Fisher Dies. Son, *Edward Inherits the property.
1581	Edward sells Priory House to *Sir John Puckering.
1586	Edward Fisher dies in Debtors Prison.
1596	Sir John Puckering Dies. Inherited by His son, *Thomas (aged 4 ½)
1581–1600	Priory House remodelled by John Puckering and Wife.
1620	Major rebuilding of Priory House by Thomas Puckering.
1637	Thomas puckering Dies. Property passes to daughter *Jane Puckering (aged 7)
1654	Jane Puckering Dies, childless. Property passes to *Henry Newton (Puckering).
1661-79	Formal Gardens laid out.
1709	Lady Elizabeth Bowyer sells Priory to *Henry Wise. Some remodelling / redecorating.
1851	Property sold to Oxford Railway Company – Warwick Station built
1865	Property sold to *Thomas Lloyd. Redecoration and paintings added.
1925	Wed. 23rd September – Priory House sold at Auction for demolition /reclamation to*A.W. Weddell. Property dismantled and shipped to Virginia – rebuilt as Hotel.
1940	Priory Land purchased by Warwickshire County Council.
1948	Weddells killed in Train Crash. Virginia House given to local Historical Society.
1951	Land transferred to ownership of Warwick Borough Council.
1953	Park opened as a public space.
1972	Excavations reveal historical past – The Medieval Priory and Tudor Mansion.
1973	County Records Office built on the site.
<p>*St Augustine – in 596/7, sent from Rome by Pope Gregory to bring Christianity to England. First Archbishop of Canterbury. Abbeys subsequently founded in his name all over the country. d. May 605. (Not to be confused with St Augustine of Hippo)</p>	
<p>*Henry De Newburgh – b. 1045. Made Earl Of Warwick by King William 11 in 1088. Great Landowner in Midlands and Wales. Died June 1119, as a Monk in France. Established Priory of St Sepulchre in Warwick 1114-19.</p>	
<p>*Henry VIII - b. Jun 1492. From 1538, Thomas Cromwell began the campaign to end the old practices of the Catholic Church in England. By 1542, all remaining monasteries were dissolved and their property transferred to the Crown – including St Sepulchre’s in Warwick in 1536. d. Jan 1547.</p>	

***Thomas Fisher** – Real Name Thomas Hawkins – Called Fisher because of family fishmonger business at Warwick Market. Worked as Secretary for Edward Seymour – Lord Protector. Later worked for John Dudley, Viscount Lisle, Duke of Northumberland, Earl of Warwick. 1546 – Purchased St Sepulchre's Priory in Warwick – demolished Priory and rebuilt it as a Tudor Mansion. Rose quickly in rank and wealth. Local MP in 1554 and 1555 under Queen Mary, and 1557-8 under Philip and Mary. Entertained the rich and famous at his home in Warwick, including Robert Dudley, Queen Elizabeth I and William Parr. d. 1577.

***Edward Seymour** - 1st Duke of Somerset (1547), 1st Earl of Hertford, 1st Viscount Beauchamp, brother of Jane Seymour, third wife of Henry VIII. Lord Protector during the early reign (1547-49) of his nephew, King Edward VI. In 1547, Thomas Married Catherine Parr, widow of Henry VIII. Fell from Power – executed for treason in 1552. Brother, Thomas, was also executed in 1549.

***John Dudley** – b. 1504. Became Earl of Warwick 1547. Led the Government of Edward VI from 1550-53. Made 1st Duke of Northumberland 1551. In May 1553, Married his son, Guildford, to Lady Jane Grey and tried unsuccessfully to install her to the throne after Edward's death.
d. Aug. 1553 – executed for treason at Tower of London.

***Robert Dudley** – son of John Dudley. b. June 1532. Lord of Denbigh, favourite of Qu. Eliz. 1st. Imprisoned in Tower of London, at the time of his father's downfall, and all property reverted to the Crown under the Law of Attainder. Released in 1554, and fought for Qu. Mary and for Qu. Eliz. including the Armada of 1588. 1564, became 1st Earl of Leicester, living at Kenilworth Castle. One of the greatest landowners in the West Midlands and North Wales. Married twice – no legitimate children. d. Sept 1588 aged 56. Buried in St Mary's Warwick. His older brother, Ambrose, b. 1530, was 3rd Earl of Warwick (of Dudley Family) and Baron Lisle.

***William Parr** – Marquess of Northampton, Earl of Essex, 1st Baron Parr, 1st Baron Hart. Only brother of Catherine Parr (sixth and final wife of Henry VIII.) d. 28th October 1571 at Warwick Priory, after attending ceremony for Robert Dudley becoming Knight of the Order of St Michael – no issue.
Buried in St Mary's Warwick – funeral and burial paid for by Qu. Eliz. 1st.

***Edward Fisher** – b. 1547, son of Thomas Fisher (Hawkins). Inherited the Priory Estate on the death of Thomas in 1577 – income valued at £3,000 a year at the time. He wasted his fortune, and sold the property to Sir John Puckering in 1581, but had tampered with the legal documents. He died in Fleet Debtor's Prison, London.

***Sir John Puckering** – b. around 1544, Flamborough, Yorkshire. Became a Lawyer in 1569. Elected Speaker of the House of Commons in 1584. 1592 – Knighted – appointed Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. Died of Apoplexy (Stroke) Buried in St Paul's Chapel in Westminster Abbey. His wife, Jane, d. 1611.

***Thomas Puckering** b. 1591 or 1592. Companion of Henry, Prince of Wales, who was tutored by Adam Newton (who was married to Thomas' Sister, Katherine.) Thomas Married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Morley. Three daughters – only one survived – Jane. Created Baronet of Weston in Hertfordshire. Lawyer and Member of Parliament. Member of the North West Passage Company. Founded a hospital for poor women in Warwick. Founded the Apprentice's Charity in 1633. d. 1637. Buried in St Mary's, Warwick.

***Jane Puckering** – only surviving daughter of Thomas Puckering. As heiress to the Puckering Estate (worth around £3,000 per year) kidnapped by Joseph Walsh, in Greenwich Park, London, aged 16 -19, September 1649. Forced to marry her kidnapper in France. Finally brought safely home, after Government petitioning; false marriage annulled in 1651. Married a man chosen by her mother – Sir John Bale of Carlton Curlieu in Leicestershire. Inherited the Estate. Died in childbirth aged 24. John Bale died soon after. Estate passed to her cousin, Henry Newton – second son of Adam Newton and Katherine

***Henry Newton** – b. 1618. 1st Baronet. Younger son of Adam Newton. Admitted to the Inner Temple in 1631, MA from Cambridge 1632. Changed his name to Puckering some time after 1636, when he inherited the Priory Estate from his Uncle, Thomas Puckering. Royalist and Politician, but changed allegiance after The Battle of Naseby – fined £1,273 by Cromwell, and told to live quietly in the country. He moved to Priory House in Warwick. At the restoration, appointed Paymaster-General of the Forces under Charles II. 1661 – elected MP for Warwickshire. 1679 – elected MP for Borough of Warwick. 1691, donated most of his vast library to Trinity College, Cambridge, including the Milton Manuscripts. d. intestate 22nd Jan. 1701. Buried in the Choir of St Mary's Warwick. His baronetcy became extinct. The estate was settled on his wife's niece, Jane Elizabeth Bowyer – widow of Sir John Bowyer, 2nd Baronet of Knypersley, Staffordshire. She lived there until her death.

*** Sir Henry Wise** - The estate was acquired in 1709 by Henry Wise, (Royal Gardener to King George I, Queen Anne and King William III) along with the Manors of Woodloes, Upper Woodcote and Lillington, for £10,553 10s. His son added a huge square wing facing the terrace in about 1745. The Wise family retained ownership of the Priory until 1851, when Henry Christopher Wise, great, great grandson of the royal gardener, sold the house and gardens to the Oxford Junction Railway Company. The railway came to Warwick, and the line and station were at the edge of the old Priory Estate.

***Thomas Lloyd** - One of the subsequent owners was Thomas Lloyd of the Lloyds Bank Family. He lived in the Priory with his family for 35 years, and established the large branch of the family bank in Market Square.

***A.W. Weddell** - The now very large mansion with 38 bedrooms, passed through various hands and restorations until it was bought by a rich American A.W. Weddell at a demolition sale in 1925 (100 years ago) for the princely sum of £3,500. He and his wife, Virginia, travelled Europe buying old properties, furniture and works of art. The Priory was demolished brick by brick and transported to America, where it now stands in Virginia, as a hotel / wedding and conference centre.