

**Chapter 1 : List of British monarchs - Wikipedia**

*This is intended to be as full a list as possible of country houses, castles, palaces, other stately homes, and manor houses in the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands; any architecturally notable building which has served as a residence for a significant family or a notable figure in history.*

Capesthorpe Hall , Macclesfield, Cheshire, home of the Bromley-Davenport family and their ancestors since Domesday times; the original Hall was designed by Smiths of Warwick between , altered by Blore in and finally Salvin rebuilt the centre after a disastrous fire in ; a fascinating collection of paintings, sculptures and furniture, extensive park and gardens; in a beautiful Georgian Chapel dating from services are still held. In , the castle was bought by Colonel Theodore Salvesen , the wealthy Scottish businessman of Norwegian extraction. Carew Castle , South Wales; this originally a Norman castle is one of the most magnificent castles of south Wales in the flat land around the tidal Carew river. The Castle was greatly improved and extended in the beginning of 16th century to Elizabethan manor ; partly destroyed during the Civil War and finally abandoned in Next to the Castle there is the Carew Tidal Mill also from the 16th century, even though the present building dates from the early 19th century. Carlisle Castle , Carlisle, Cumbria, was started by King William II in , and rebuilt in stone in by Henry II; during the castle was attacked nine times, and in Mary Queen of Scots was held prisoner in the castle; in the Jacobite army of "Bonnie Prince Charlie" took the castle on its way south. The castle has been in the hands of the military without break for years and is now also home to the museum of the Kings Own border Regiment and the border Regiment. The natural cave beneath the castle rock, perhaps a prehistoric refuge, is incorporated into the defenses via a gallery passage and can still be explored with torches. During the War of the Roses - 85 it became a base for Lancastrian, who terrorized the country around. The castle was taken by the Yorkists in , this "robbers den" was laboriously dismantled by men with picks and crowbars. The ruins are still very impressive and the views from the hilltop are magnificent. Casterne Hall, , Ilam, Staffordshire. The site of Casterne Hall has been a dwelling since time immemorial and the present owners, the Hurts, came here in the late s. Casterne is hidden away from the rest of the world, and the only noise is that of the cattle and sheep, the owls at night and the occasional tractor. The castle was burned in by Cromwell, later the Earl was executed, and the Campbells abandoned their castle. The castle came under the protection of the National Trust for Scotland in Castle Drogo , nr. The style of the castle is mainly from the medieval and Tudor periods with conveniences quite modern during the time it was built. The castle also has a notable garden. Castle Howard , Castle Menzies , Weem, Perthshire, Scotland, is an excellent and large example of a Z-plan fortified Tower House with flanking towers at diagonally opposite corners and has been the seat of the Chiefs of Clan Menzies for over years. In spite of the present extensive restoration works the castle is kept open to the public during the summer months; Castle of Mey , Thurso, Caithness, Scotland, was built between and by the 4th Earl of Caithness. In Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother bought the place, which was in a state of neglect but was beautifully restored during the years. In , she created a charitable trust, which took ownership of the castle and the estate, with the intention of securing their future. The Castle is now open to the public during certain summer months. Castle Tioram , Moidart, Invernesshire, Scotland; the ruined castle, the ancestral home of the Macdonalds of Clanranald, is accessible only at low tide along a narrow sandy causeway. It is one of the foremost surviving examples of a 13th century castle in Scotland. The castle was destroyed in when Clan Chief Allan of Clanranald ordered it to be burnt, probably to prevent it falling into enemy hands when he left to fight for the Jacobite cause. The castle is now owned by a Scottish businessman who is hoping to conserve it through a Trust. Cawdor Castle , Highlands, Scotland, a late 14th century private fortress and a real fairy-tale castle was built around a small living holly tree by the Thanes of Cawdor and is still the home of the Cawdor family; the name of Cawdor was romantically linked by Shakespeare with Macbeth. Charlecote Park , Warwickshire, has been the home of the Lucy family since , and the present house was built in The house was vigorously renovated in s, and only the two-storey gatehouse remained untouched Elizabethan being now a museum.

## Chapter 2 : The Royal Family

*The destruction of country houses in 20th-century Britain was a phenomenon brought about by a change in social conditions during which a large number of country houses of varying architectural merit were demolished by their owners.*

Two years before the beginning of World War I, on 4 May, the British magazine *Country Life* carried a seemingly unremarkable advertisement: There was no reason for public interest or concern; the same magazine had frequently published in-depth articles on new country houses being built, designed by fashionable architects such as Lutyens. The *Country Life* advertisement, however, was to prove a hint of things to come. Dawley Court, Uxbridge c. The wealth and status of the owner provided no protection to the building as even the more wealthy owners became keen to free themselves of not only the expense of a large house, but also the trappings of wealth and redundant privilege which the house represented. However, the process of change was long, and it was not until with the preservation of Calke Abbey that it became obvious that opinion had changed. In the 21st century, the period of change seems cemented. A large public appeal has assured the preservation of Tyntesfield in , and in , Dumfries House and its collection were saved, after protracted appeals and debates. Today, demolition has ceased to be a realistic, or legal, option for listed buildings, and an historic house particularly one with its contents intact has become recognized as worthy of retention and preservation. However, many country houses are still at risk and their security, even as an entirety with their contents, is not guaranteed by any legislation. Thus, following the cessation of hostilities, the trickle of demolitions which had begun in the earlier part of the century, now became a torrent of destruction. Destroying buildings of national or potential national importance was not an act peculiar to the 20th century in Britain. The demolition in the late s of Northumberland House, London, a prime example of English Renaissance architecture, passed without significant comment. Town houses such as Northumberland House were highly visible displays of wealth and political power, so consequently more likely to be the victims of changing fashions. The difference in the 20th century was that the acts of demolition were often acts of desperation and last resort; a demolished house could not be valued for probate duty. A vacant site was attractive to property developers, who would pay a premium for an empty site that could be rebuilt upon and filled with numerous small houses and bungalows, which would return a quick profit. This was especially true in the years immediately following World War II, when Britain was desperate to replace the thousands of homes destroyed. This meant that by the 20th century, many owners of country houses often owned several country mansions. Thus, one solution not only solved any financial problems, but also removed an unwanted burden. The vast majority of the houses demolished were of less architectural importance than the great Baroque, Palladian and Neoclassical mansions by the notable architects. Occasionally an aristocrat of the first rank did find himself in dire financial troubles. The severely impoverished Duke of Marlborough saved Blenheim Palace by marrying an heiress, tempted from the USA by the lure of an old title in return for vast riches. It proved to be a temporary solution; his heirs, the 3rd and final Duke of Buckingham and his heirs, the Earls Temple, inherited huge financial problems until finally in anything left that was moveable, both internal and external, was auctioned off and the house sold, narrowly escaping demolition. It was saved by being transformed into a school. Selling the Hope diamond and other properties failed to solve the family problems, leaving no alternative but demolition of the huge, expensive-to-maintain house, which was razed to the ground in, leaving the Duke without a ducal seat. Whatever the personal choices and reasons for the sales and demolitions, the underlying and unifying factor was almost always financial. The root of the problem began long before the 20th century with the gradual introduction and increase of taxes on income and further tax on inherited wealth, death duties. It was replaced by a much smaller modern house. Before the 19th century, the British upper classes enjoyed a life relatively free from taxation. Staff were plentiful and cheap, and estates not only provided a generous income from tenanted land but also political power. During the 19th century this began to change, until by the mid-century they had no power and were suffering heavy taxation. The staff had either been killed in two world wars or forsaken a life of servitude for better wages elsewhere. Thus the

owners of large country houses dependent on staff and a large income began by necessity to dispose of their costly non-self sustaining material assets. Large houses had become redundant white elephants to be abandoned or demolished. It seemed that in particular regard to the country houses no one was prepared to save them. In the immediate aftermath of World War II, to the British public still suffering from the deprivations of food rationing and restriction on building work the destruction of these great redundant houses was of little interest. From onwards there had been a huge exodus away from a life in domestic service; having experienced the less restricted and better paid life away from the great estates, few were anxious to return – this in itself was a further reason that life in the English country house was becoming near impossible to all but the very rich. Beaupre Hall, a fortified mansion, complete with castellated gatehouse, exemplified early domestic architecture. Shortly before its demolition it was photographed with an advancing army of small, box like bungalows within metres of the medieval walls. Before the late s and the advent of the stately home business, very few working-class people had seen the upstairs of these great houses; those that had were there only to clean and serve, with an obligation to keep their eyes down, rather than uplift them and be educated. Successive legislation involving national heritage, often formulated by the aristocracy themselves, had omitted any reference to private houses. The main reasons that so many British country houses were destroyed during the second half of the 20th century are politics and social conditions. During the Second World War many large houses were requisitioned, and subsequently for the duration of the war were used for the billeting of military personnel, government operations, hospitals, schools and a myriad of other uses far removed from the purpose for which they were designed. At the end of the war when handed back to the owners, many were in a poor or ruinous state of repair. During the next two decades, restrictions were applied to building works as Britain was rebuilt, priority being given to replacing what had been lost during the war rather than the oversized home of an elite family. These factors, coupled with a decrease in people available or willing to work as servants, left the owners of country houses facing major problems of how to manage their estates. The most obvious solution was to off-load the cash-eating family mansion. Many were offered for sale as suitable for institutional use; those not readily purchased were speedily demolished. In the years immediately after the war, the law was powerless – even had it wished to – to stop the demolition of a private house no matter how architecturally important. Loss of income from the estate[ edit ] Before the s, these estates often encompassed several thousand acres, generally consisting of a home farm, kitchen gardens utilised to supply the mansion with meat, milk, fruit and vegetables, and several farms let to tenants. While such estates were sufficiently profitable to maintain the mansion and provide a partial – if not complete – income, the agricultural depression of the s changed the viability of estates in general. Previously, such holdings yielded at least enough to fund loans on the large debts and mortgages usually undertaken to fund a lavish lifestyle, [30] often spent both in the country estate and in large houses in London. By, the agricultural depression had led some holders into financial shortfalls as they tried to balance maintenance of their estate with the income it provided. Some relied on funds from secondary sources such as banking and trade while others, like the severely impoverished Duke of Marlborough, sought American heiresses. The other factor was the reorganization of constituency boundaries, and a candidate who for years had been returned unopposed suddenly found part of his electorate was from an area outside of his influence. Thus the national power of the landed aristocrats and gentry was slowly diminished. The ruling class was slowly ceasing to rule. In the creation of local elected authorities in the form of county councils eroded their immediate local power too. The final blow, the reform of the House of Lords in, proved to be the beginning of the end for the country house lifestyle which had been enjoyed in a similar way for generations of the upper classes. Tong Castle, demolished in Often a demolition took the form of a public entertainment: The Church windows were opened to cope with the blast. Lord Newport fired the charges Its site was often more valuable empty than with the anachronistic palace in situ; selling them for redevelopment was the obvious first choice to raise some fast cash. In fact, the buying of land in earlier times, before the reforms of, to expand political territory had had a detrimental effect on country houses too. Often when a second estate was purchased to expand another, the purchased estate also had a country house. If the land and its subsequent local influence was the only requirement, its house would then be let or neglected, often both. This was certainly the case at Tong Castle

see below and many other houses. A large unwanted country house unsupported by land quickly became a liability. Loss of wealth through taxation[ edit ] Income tax Income tax was first introduced in Great Britain in 1799 as a means of subsidising the Napoleonic Wars. The tax was repealed for a brief period in 1802 during a cessation in hostilities with the French, but its reintroduction in 1803 set the pattern for all future taxation in Britain. Throughout the 19th century, tax thresholds remained high, permitting the wealthy to live comfortably while paying minimal tax; until in 1842, however, any respite this defeat gave the owners of large country houses, many of them members of the House of Lords, was to be brief and ultimately self-defeating. Death duties Death duties are the taxes most commonly associated with the decline of the British country house. They are not, in fact, a phenomenon peculiar to the 20th century, as they had first been introduced in 1696. Next of kin inheriting were exempt from payment, but anyone other than wives and children of the deceased had to pay on an increasing scale depending on the distance of the relationship from the deceased. These taxes gradually increased not only the percentage of the estate that had to be paid, but also to include closer heirs liable to payment. By 1894, the tax was payable by all except the spouse of the deceased. The wording personal property meant that for the first time not only the house and its estate were taxed but also the contents of the house including jewellery – these were often of greater value than the estate itself. Death duties, however, slowly increased and became a serious problem for the country estate throughout the first half of the 20th century, reaching a zenith when assisting in the funding of World War II. Attempts by some families to avoid paying death duties were both helped and hindered by war. However, if the heir had died single and intestate, the former owner would become the owner again, and when that owner died, the death taxes would have to be paid. If however the serviceman had left an heir, death duties were avoided for at least one generation. Legislation to protect the national heritage[ edit ] and Ancient Monument and Amendment Acts[ edit ] Hamilton Palace , the seat of the Dukes of Hamilton , built in 1696, was subsequently much enlarged. It was demolished in 1924. The Ancient Monuments Protection Act was the first serious attempt in Britain to catalogue and preserve ancient British monuments. While the Acts failed to protect any country houses, the Ancient Monuments Protection Act provided one important factor which saved many monuments of national importance by making provision for owners of ancient monuments on list of the catalogue to enter into agreement with civil authorities whereby the property was placed under public guardianship. While these agreements did not divest the owner of the title to the property, they imposed on the civil authority an obligation to maintain and preserve for the nation. The aristocratic ruling class of Britain inhabiting their homes and castles were certainly not going to be regulated by some lowly civil servants. This view was exemplified in 1924 when the immensely wealthy Duke of Sutherland acting on a whim wished to dispose of Trentham Hall , a vast Italianate palace in Staffordshire. After failing to offload the house onto a local authority, he decided to demolish it. Thus, despite money being no problem for its owner, Trentham Hall was completely obliterated from its park, which the Duke retained and then opened to the public. Blytheswood House , Renfrew , Scotland , a neoclassical mansion designed by James Gillespie Graham , was the seat of the Lords Blythswood , and was demolished in 1924. The Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act was the first Act which had the aim of deliberately preserving ancient monuments built since prehistoric times. The act clearly defined a monument as "Any structure or erection other than one in ecclesiastical use. The catalyst for the Act had been the threat to Tattershall Castle , Lincolnshire. The Act also went further than its predecessors by decreeing that the public should have access to the monuments preserved at its expense. While the catalogue of buildings worthy of preservation was to expand, it remained restrictive, and failed to prevent many of the early demolitions, including, in 1924, the export to the USA of the near ruinous Agecroft Hall. This fine half timbered example of Tudor domestic architecture, was shipped, complete with its timbers, wattle and daub, across the Atlantic.

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