

**The Correspondence  
(c. 1626–1659) of  
Dorothy Percy Sidney,  
Countess of Leicester**

*Edited by*  
**Michael G. Brennan,  
Noel J. Kinnamon and  
Margaret P. Hannay**



The Early Modern Englishwoman, 1500-1750: Contemporary Editions

# THE CORRESPONDENCE (c. 1626–1659) OF DOROTHY PERCY SIDNEY, COUNTESS OF LEICESTER

Fully transcribed and edited here for the first time, Dorothy Percy Sidney's letters eloquently convey how intensely demanding were the multifaceted roles expected of an aristocratic early modern Englishwoman. This volume contains a biographical and historical introduction, the complete text of her letters to her husband, her correspondence with the Sidney family solicitor, and other family and business letters. Also included are her husband's account of her last moments in 1659, and testamentary directions relating to her will.

Margaret P. Hannay, Noel J. Kinnamon and Michael G. Brennan have together edited *Domestic Politics and Family Absence: The Correspondence (1588–1621) of Robert Sidney, First Earl of Leicester, and Barbara Gamage Sidney, Countess of Leicester* (Ashgate, 2005); and *The Collected Works of Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke* for the Oxford English Texts Series (Oxford UP, 1998); and a modern-spelling edition for students and general readers, *Selected Works of Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke* (MRTS, 2005). They are currently editing *The Correspondence of Rowland Whyte and Robert Sidney, first Earl of Leicester*.

Michael G. Brennan, Professor of Renaissance Studies at the University of Leeds, is the author of *The Origins of the Grand Tour* (Ashgate, 2005) and *The Sidneys of Penshurst and the Monarchy, 1500–1700* (Ashgate, 2007). He is also author of *Literary Patronage in the English Renaissance: The Pembroke Family* (Routledge, 1988); and has edited *Lady Mary Wroth's Love's Victory: The Penshurst Manuscript* (Roxburghe Club, 1988). With Noel Kinnamon he has published *A Sidney Chronology: 1554–1654* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003) and has published extensively on Renaissance travel writings.

Noel J. Kinnamon, Professor of English at Mars Hill College has published textual studies of the Sidney Psalms in *English Manuscript Studies, Notes & Queries*, and the *National Library of Wales Journal*, as well as a variety of articles on George Herbert, Henry Vaughan, and manuscript studies in the *George Herbert Journal* and *English Literary Renaissance*. With Michael Brennan he has published *A Sidney Chronology: 1554–1654* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003).

Margaret Hannay, Professor of English at Siena College, is the author of *Philip's Phoenix: Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke* (Oxford UP, 1990), and of *Mary Sidney, Lady Wroth* (Ashgate 2010). She is the editor of *Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke*, for the series Ashgate Critical Essays on Women Writers in England 1550–1700 (2009), editor of *Silent but for the Word: Tudor Women as Patrons, Translators, and Writers of Religious Works* (Kent State UP, 1985), and editor, with Susanne Woods, of *Teaching Tudor and Stuart Women Writers* (MLA, 2000).

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## General Editors' Preface

Foregrounding women and gender has created a genuine revolution in the way we construct the early modern period, and the aim of *Contemporary Editions* (like its sister series, *The Early Modern Englishwoman, 1500–1750: A Facsimile Library of Essential Works*) is to encourage and perpetuate this revolution by making available the texts that in so many ways have generated it.

*Contemporary Editions* shares with the facsimile series a desire to recover neglected or unknown texts as well as to make more readily available texts that the feminist rereading of the period has now brought to light. Apart from the inherent differences in editorial methodology between the two series, the format of the new series permits a fuller response to the wide range of writings of and about women. *Contemporary Editions* is designed to provide distinguished editions, in both modernized- and old-spelling format, of writings not only by but also for and about early-modern women. Volumes include long, interpretative essays and range widely in format from anthologies to single texts.

We hope that this series will capture the energy of the many scholars who are engaged in the reinterpretation of the early modern period, and that *Contemporary Editions* will in time become, like its sister project, 'a library of essential works' for the study of early modern women and gender.

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We have incurred various obligations to other individuals while working on this edition, including Joseph L. Black, Geraldine Brennan, Becky Cody, Lora Coomer, Karen Frye, Betty H. Hageman, Bill Hamilton, Kate Harris, Steven Johnson, Mary Ellen Lamb, Scott Lowrey, Jason Pierce, Don Russell, Christopher Sheppard, Alan Smith, and Germaine Warkentin. We are especially grateful to Joseph L. Black for helping to edit the inventory of Dorothy Percy Sidney's personal library. Michael Brennan is grateful to the Arts and Humanities Research Board for a period of Research Leave during which this edition was completed; Noel Kinnamon is grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a Summer Stipend and to Mars Hill College for a research grant, and Margaret Hannay is grateful to Siena College for reassigned time to work on this edition.

Finally, in producing this edition we have been greatly indebted to our ever-helpful commissioning editor at Ashgate, Erika Gaffney, and to our series editors, Betty S. Travitsky and Anne Lake Prescott. We are also grateful to Ashgate Publishing, particularly to Erika Gaffney, Literary Editor; Barbara Pretty, Senior Editor; and Huw Jones, Copyeditor.

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# Abbreviations

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Betcherman        | Lita-Rose Betcherman, <i>Court Lady and Country Wife. Royal Privilege and Civil War. Two Noble Sisters in Seventeenth-Century England</i> . Chichester: Wiley, 2005  |
| BL                | British Library  |
| <i>Chronology</i> | Michael G. Brennan and Noel J. Kinnamon, <i>A Sidney Chronology 1554–1654</i> . Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2003  |
| CKS               | Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone  |
| Collins           | <i>Letters and Memorials of State</i> , 2 vols. Ed. Arthur Collins. London: T. Osborne, 1746   |
| <i>CSPD</i>       | <i>Calendar of State Papers Domestic</i>   |
| <i>DD</i>         | Historical Manuscripts Commission, <i>Report on the Manuscripts of Lord De L'Isle and Dudley Preserved at Penshurst Place</i> , 6 vols. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1925–66  |
| <i>DPFA</i>       | <i>Domestic Politics and Family Absence. The Correspondence (1588–1621) of Robert Sidney, First Earl of Leicester, and Barbara Gamage Sidney, Countess of Leicester</i> . Ed. Margaret P. Hannay, Noel J. Kinnamon, and Michael G. Brennan. Aldershot and Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2005 |
| DPS               | Dorothy Percy Sidney (1598–1659), Countess of Leicester  |
| HMC               | Historical Manuscripts Commission  |
| HMC Salisbury     | Historical Manuscripts Commission, <i>Report on the Manuscripts of the Most Honorable the Marquess of Salisbury, Preserved at Hatfield House</i> . London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1883–1923  |
| Hull              | <i>De L'Isle MSS</i> . Ed. F. Hull. Maidstone: Centre for Kentish Studies, 1974  |
| MS                | manuscript   |
| <i>MSLW</i>       | Margaret P. Hannay, <i>Mary Sidney, Lady Wroth</i> . Farnham and Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2010  |
| <i>ODNB</i>       | <i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i> . Ed. C. Matthew and B. Harrison, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004   |
| <i>OED</i>        | <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>   |
| RS2               | Robert Sidney (1595–1677), second Earl of Leicester  |
| SP                | State Papers   |
| <i>SPM</i>        | Michael G. Brennan, <i>The Sidneys of Penshurst and the Monarchy, 1500–1700</i> . Aldershot and Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2006   |

- STC                    *Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, & Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad, 1475–1640*. Compiled by A.W. Pollard and G.R. Redgrave; 2nd edition, revised and enlarged by W.A. Jackson, F.S. Ferguson, and Katharine F. Pantzer, 3 vols. London: Bibliographical Society, 1976–91
- TNA                    The National Archives, London (formerly Public Record Office)
- Wing                   *Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, Wales, and British America, and of English Books Printed in Other Countries, 1641–1700*. Compiled by Donald Wing; 2nd edition, revised and enlarged by John J. Morrison, Carolyn W. Nelson, and Matthew Seccombe, 4 vols. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1972–98

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Plate 2 Cornelius Janssens (Jonson), Robert Sidney, second Earl of Leicester

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Plate 8 Letter from Lucy Percy Hay, Countess of Carlisle, to Dorothy Percy Sidney, Earl of Leicester, 10 November 1640 (CKS U1475 C129/9)

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# Sidney Family Table and Family Tree

■ **NICHOLAS SIDNEY** (c.1451–1512) m. Anne Brandon, sister of Sir Thomas Brandon (d.1510) and aunt of Charles Brandon (c.1484–1545), Duke of Suffolk

■ **William** and □ Francis

**Sir WILLIAM SIDNEY** (c.1482–1554) m. Anne Pakenham (d.1543), widow of Thomas Fitzwilliam, the elder brother of William Fitzwilliam (c.1490–1542), Earl of Southampton

□ Mary (d.1542) m. Sir William Dormer

□ Jane (1538–1612), m. Gomez Suárez de Figueroa (c.1520–71), Duke of Feria

■ **Henry**

□ Lucy m. Sir James Harington of Exton

□ Anne m. Sir William Fitzwilliam (1526–99)

□ Frances (c.1531–89) m. Sir Thomas Radcliffe (c.1526–83), Earl of Sussex

□ Mabel and □ Elizabeth

**Sir HENRY SIDNEY** (1529–86) m. Mary Dudley (1531–86)

□ Philip (1554–86) m. Frances Walsingham (1567–1632); she later married (1590) Robert Devereux (1565–1601), Earl of Essex; and (1603) Richard Burke (1572–1635), 4th Earl of Clanrickarde

□ Elizabeth (1585–1612) m. Roger Manners (1576–1612), Earl of Rutland

□ Mary Margaret (1556–58)

□ Elizabeth (1560–67)

□ Mary (1561–1621) m. Henry Herbert (c.1538–1601), 2nd Earl of Pembroke

□ William (1580–1630), 3rd Earl of Pembroke m. Mary Talbot (1580–1650)

□ two illegitimate children, William and Katherine (b.c.1624) by his cousin, Mary Sidney Wroth

□ Katherine (1581–84)

□ Anne (1583–c.1606)

□ Philip (1584–1650), Earl of Montgomery and 4th Earl of Pembroke

m. (1) Susan Vere (1587–1629)

m. (2) Anne Clifford (1590–1676)

■ **Robert**

□ Ambrosia (c.1564–75)

□ Thomas (1569–95) m. Margaret Dakins (1571–1633)

**Sir ROBERT SIDNEY** (1563–1626), **Viscount Lisle and 1st Earl of Leicester**  
 m. (1584) (1) Barbara Gamage (c.1559–1621), heiress of John Gamage of Coity  
 m. (1626) (2) Sarah Blount (d.1655), widow of Sir Thomas Smythe (d. 1625)

- Mary (1587–1651) m. (1604) Sir Robert Wroth (1576–1614)
  - James (1614–16)
  - two illegitimate children, William and Katherine, (b.1624?) by her cousin, William Herbert, 3rd Earl of Pembroke
- Katherine (c.1589–1616) m. Lewis Mansell
- William (1590–1612)
- Henry (b.d.c.1591)
- Elizabeth (1592–1605)
- Philippa (Philip) (1594–1620) m. John Hobart
- **Robert**
  - Bridget (1597–99) and □ Alice (1598–99)
  - Barbara (1599–1644)
    - m. (1) Thomas Smythe (d.1635), Viscount Strangford
      - Philip (b.1634), Viscount Strangford m. (1650) his cousin Isabella Sidney (1634–63)
    - m. (2) Thomas Colepeper
  - Vere (1602–06)

**ROBERT SIDNEY** (1595–1677), **Viscount Lisle and 2nd Earl of Leicester**  
 m. Dorothy Percy (1598–1659), eldest daughter of Henry Percy (1564–1632), 9th Earl of Northumberland

- Dorothy (1617–84)
  - m. (1) Henry Spencer (1620–43), 1st Earl of Sunderland
    - Robert (1641–1702), 2nd Earl of Sunderland
    - Henry (1643–49)
  - m. (2) Robert Smythe (1613–64/7)
- **Philip**
  - Robert (1620–22)
  - Henry (1621–22)
  - Algernon (1623–83)
  - Lucy (1624–25)
  - Lucy (b.1625)
  - Robert (1626–68)
  - Anne (b.c.1627/8)
  - Mary (1629–48)
  - Frances (1630–51)
  - Isabella (b.1634–63)

- Elizabeth (d.1650)
- Diana (c.1640–70)
- Henry (1641–1704), 1st Earl of Romney

■ **PHILIP SIDNEY** (1619–98), **Viscount Lisle and 3rd Earl of Leicester**  
m. Catherine Cecil (c.1628–52), daughter of William Cecil (1591–1668), 2nd  
Earl of Salisbury

- Algernon (1647–48)

■ **Robert**

- (illegitimate) three sons and one daughter

**ROBERT SIDNEY** (1649–1702), **Viscount Lisle and 4th Earl of Leicester**  
m. Elizabeth Egerton

■ **Philip**

■ **John**

■ **Jocelyn**

- (illegitimate) one daughter

■ **PHILIP SIDNEY** (1676–1705), **Viscount Lisle and 5th Earl of Leicester**

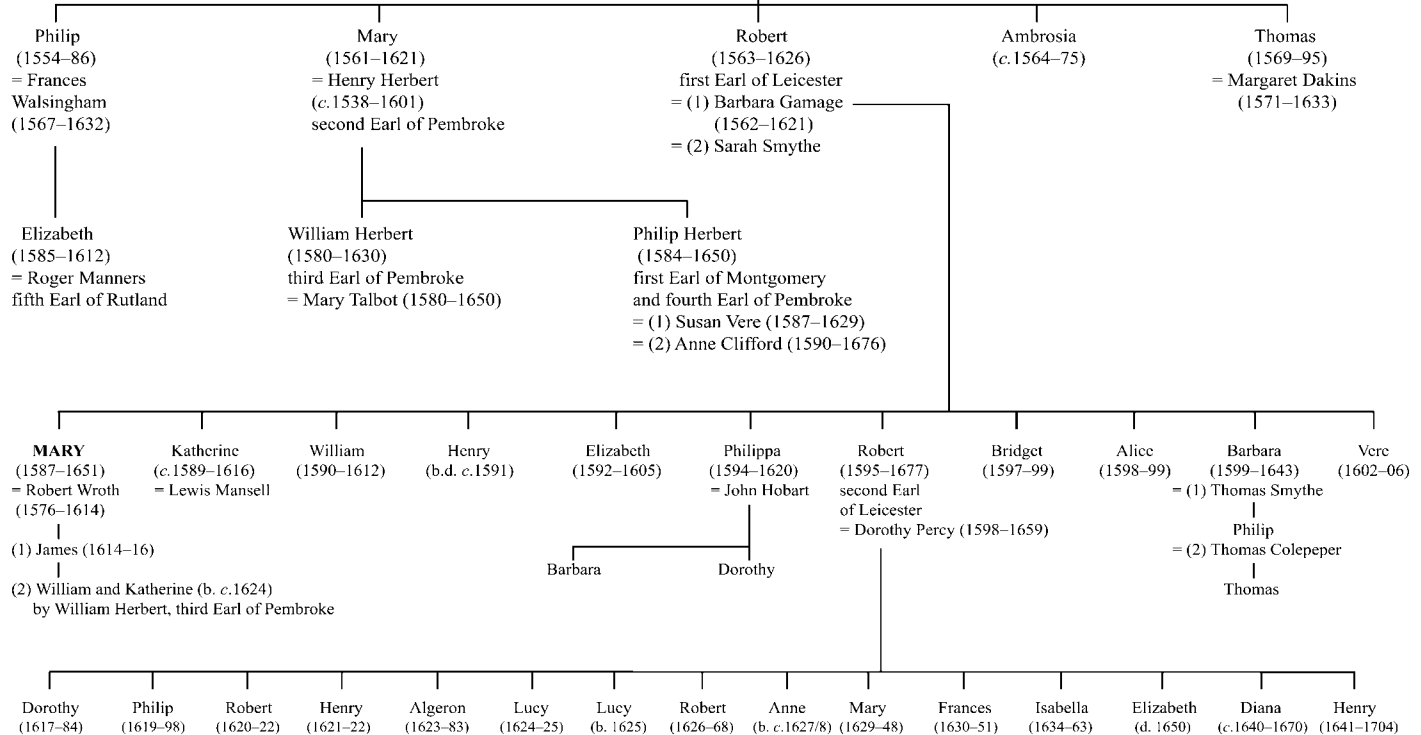
■ **JOHN SIDNEY** (d.1737), **Viscount Lisle and 6th Earl of Leicester**

■ **JOCELYN SIDNEY** (d.1743), **Viscount Lisle and 7th Earl of Leicester**

# Sidney Family Tree

Sir William Sidney (1482–1554) = Anne Pagenham (d. 1543)

Sir Henry Sidney (1529–86) = Mary Dudley (1531–86)



# Chronology

Sidney and Percy family affairs in roman; general historical information in italic.

DPS = Dorothy Percy Sidney (1598–1659), Countess of Leicester

RS2 = Robert Sidney (1595–1677), second Earl of Leicester

- 1509 (21 Apr.) *death of King Henry VII and accession of King Henry VIII*  
1513 (9 Sept.) *King James IV of Scotland killed at the Battle of Flodden;*  
Sir William Sidney (d. 1554) fights there with distinction  
1529 (20 Jul.) birth of Henry Sidney  
1532 (15 May.) *English church supports King Henry VIII against the Papacy*  
1533 (25 Jan.) *King Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn after divorcing*  
*Catherine of Aragon*  
1536 (19 May) *Anne Boleyn executed*  
(30 May) *King Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour*  
1537 (2 Jun.) DPS's great-great-grandfather, Sir Thomas Percy, executed at  
Tyburn for his involvement in the Pilgrimage of Grace  
(12 Oct.) *Prince Edward born to King Henry VIII and Jane Seymour*  
(24 Oct.) *Jane Seymour dies*  
1538 Sir William Sidney appointed Chamberlain to Prince Edward  
1547 (28 Jan.) *death of King Henry VIII and accession of King Edward VI*  
1549 (20 Jun.) *Norfolk Rebellion begins*  
1551 (29 Mar.) Henry Sidney marries Mary, daughter of John Dudley, Earl of  
Warwick  
(11 Oct.) Henry Sidney knighted and John Dudley created Duke of  
Northumberland  
1552 (25 Apr.) King Edward VI grants Penshurst Place, Kent, to Sir William  
Sidney  
1553 (6 Jul.) *death of King Edward VI and accession of Lady Jane Grey*  
*(executed 12 Feb. 1554)*  
(19 Jul.) *accession of Queen Mary*  
(22 Aug.) RS2's great-great-grandfather, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland,  
executed on Tower Hill  
1554 (7 Feb.) *rebellion against Queen Mary led by Sir Thomas Wyatt*  
(30 Nov.) birth of Philip Sidney (d. 1586), with Philip of Spain as  
godfather  
1558 (7 Jan.) *loss of Calais, England's last French possession*  
1558 (17 Nov.) *death of Queen Mary and accession of Queen Elizabeth I*  
1560–86 Sir Henry Sidney, Lord President of the Council of Wales

- 1561 (27 Oct.) birth of Mary Sidney (d. 1621), later Countess of Pembroke
- 1563 (19 Nov.) birth of Robert Sidney (d. 1626), later first Earl of Leicester
- 1565–71 Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy of Ireland
- 1569 (Jan.) *English colonization of Ulster begins*
- (Nov.) *Rebellion of the northern earls in support of Mary Queen of Scots*
- 1570 (25 Feb.) *Queen Elizabeth excommunicated by Papal Bull*
- 1572 (May.) Sir Henry Sidney declines a barony due to its related expenses
- (22 Aug.) DPS's great-grandfather, Thomas Percy, eighth Earl of Northumberland, is executed at York for his involvement in the northern rebellion
- 1575–78 Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy of Ireland
- 1577 (21 Apr.) Mary Sidney marries Henry Herbert (d. 1601), second Earl of Pembroke
- 1580 (8 Apr.) birth of William Herbert (d. 1630), later third Earl of Pembroke
- 1584 (23 Sept.) marriage of Robert Sidney and Barbara Gamage (d. 1621)
- (16 Oct.) birth of Philip Herbert (d. 1650), later fourth Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery
- 1585 (20/21 Jun.) DPS's grandfather, Henry Percy (c. 1532–85), eighth Earl of Northumberland, reportedly commits suicide in the Tower of London
- 1586 (1 or 5 May) death of Sir Henry Sidney at Worcester
- (9 Aug.) death of Lady Mary Dudley Sidney at London
- (23 Sept.) Philip Sidney wounded during a skirmish at Zutphen
- (7 Oct.) Robert Sidney is knighted by his uncle, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, for valour at Zutphen
- (17 Oct.) death of Sir Philip Sidney
- 1587 (8 Feb.) *execution of Mary Stuart*
- (16 Feb.) funeral of Sir Philip Sidney at St Paul's Cathedral, London
- (18 Oct.) birth of Robert Sidney's daughter, Mary (d. 1651), later Lady Mary Wroth
- 1588 (Aug.) *Spanish Armada crisis*; Robert Sidney joins the English forces at Tilbury, led by his uncle, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and is then dispatched on a mission to King James VI of Scotland to ensure Scotland's support for England against Spain
- (4 Sept.) death of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester
- 1589–1616 Robert Sidney, Governor of Flushing
- 1590 publication of *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*
- 1593 publication of *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, with Books I–III from 1590 edition and IV–V from manuscript

- 1594 (?) marriage of Henry Percy, ninth Earl of Northumberland (d. 1632), and Dorothy Devereux Perrott (d. 1619), sister of Robert Devereux, second Earl of Essex, and widow of Sir Thomas Perrott
- 1595 (1 Dec.) birth of RS2 at Baynard's Castle. His godparents were Penelope Devereux Rich; her lover Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy, and Lord William Compton, later Earl of Northampton
- 1596 (19 Aug.) *birth of Princess Elizabeth, later Queen of Bohemia*
- 1598 (?) birth of DPS; publication of a 'collected works' of Philip Sidney, including *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, *Defence of Poetry* and *Astrophil and Stella*
- (24 Dec.) *birth of Prince Charles, later King Charles I*
- 1599 (c. 29 Sept.) birth of Lucy Percy (d. 1660), later Countess of Carlisle  
(c. Oct.) DPS's parents temporarily separate; her mother's brother, Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, placed under house-arrest
- 1601 (19 Jan.) death of Henry Herbert, second Earl of Pembroke  
(7/8 Feb.) *rebellion led by Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex (executed 25 Feb.)*
- (Dec.) DPS's mother returns to live with her father
- 1602 (29 Sept.) birth of Algernon Percy (d. 1668), younger brother of DPS, later tenth Earl of Northumberland
- 1603 (24 Mar.) *death of Queen Elizabeth and accession of King James VI of Scotland and I of England*
- (13 May) Sir Robert Sidney created Baron Sidney of Penshurst; appointed Queen Anne's Chamberlain and Surveyor of Revenues
- (Oct.–Dec.) King James visits Wilton House
- 1604 (18 Apr.) *restoration to earldom of Robert Devereux (d. 1646) as third Earl of Essex*
- (27 Sept.) Mary Sidney marries Sir Robert Wroth at Penshurst  
(4 Nov.) William Herbert, third Earl of Pembroke, marries Mary Talbot at Wilton
- (27 Dec.) Philip Herbert marries Susan de Vere at London
- 1605 (4 May.) Robert Sidney created Viscount Lisle; Philip Herbert created Earl of Montgomery
- (5 Nov.) *discovery of the Gunpowder Plot*  
(27 Nov.) Henry Percy (d. 1632), ninth Earl of Northumberland, imprisoned in the Tower of London for suspected complicity in the Gunpowder Plot (released Jun. 1621)
- 1607 (27 Feb.) RS2 matriculates with his brother William (d. 1612) from Christ Church, Oxford
- 1609 *plantation of Ulster by English Protestants*

- 1610 (May) *assassination of King Henri IV of France and accession of King Louis XIII*
- (2–5 Jun.) RS2 created a Knight of the Bath
- 1611 *publication of King James Bible*
- 1612 (6 Nov.) *death of Prince Henry*
- 1613 (14 Feb.) *marriage of Princess Elizabeth to Frederick V, Elector Palatine; wedding attended by DPS, her mother, her sister and her male relatives*
- (Mar.) collapse of negotiations to marry RS2 to a daughter of Sir Henry Savile
- (Apr.–Aug.) Robert Sidney (d. 1626) escorts Princess Elizabeth to Germany; travels home with RS2, who is then commanding a military company at Flushing
- 1616 (early) RS2 marries DPS; the Sidneys' neighbour, Lady Anne Clifford, notes in her diary (Feb. 1616) that their union is 'openly known' to their family circle; it does not become public knowledge until Mar. 1617
- (23 Apr.) *death of William Shakespeare*
- (6/7 May) Robert Sidney created a Knight of the Garter
- (30 May) Robert Sidney, accompanied by RS2, formally hands over Flushing to the Dutch
- (5 Jul.) death of James Wroth, son of Mary Sidney Wroth
- 1617 (5 Oct.) baptism of Dorothy Sidney (d. 1684), the first child of RS2 and DPS, later Countess of Sunderland
- (6 Nov.) marriage of Lucy Percy (d. 1660) and James Hay (d. 1636), later Earl of Carlisle
- 1618 (2 Aug.) Robert Sidney created first Earl of Leicester (of the second creation)
- 1619 (10 Jan.) birth of Philip Sidney (d. 1698), son of RS2 and DPS, later third Earl of Leicester
- (3 Apr.) marriage of RS2's sister Barbara (d. 1644) and Thomas Smythe (d. 1635), later Viscount Strangford
- (13 May) Robert Sidney, Earl of Leicester, Mary Sidney Herbert, Dowager Countess of Pembroke, Dorothy Percy Sidney, Mary Sidney Wroth and Philippa Sidney Hobart attend the funeral of Queen Anne (d. 2 Mar.) as do most of their male relatives
- (Aug.) death of DPS's mother, Dorothy Devereux Perrott Percy, Countess of Northumberland
- (4 Nov.) *Frederick Elector Palatine and Princess Elizabeth crowned King and Queen of Bohemia*
- 1620 (Aug.) *Pilgrim Fathers sail in 'Mayflower' for America*
- (Sept.) death of RS2's sister, Philippa Sidney Hobart
- (9 Oct.) christening of Robert Sidney (d. 1622), son of RS2 and DPS

- (8 Nov.) *Battle of the White Mountain; Frederick and Elizabeth lose Bohemia*
- 1621 (24 May) death of Barbara Gamage Sidney, Countess of Leicester; buried at Penshurst on 26 May
- (Jul.) Henry Percy, ninth Earl of Northumberland, freed from the Tower of London
- (25 Sept.) Mary Sidney Herbert dies from smallpox at her house in Aldergate Street, London; funeral at St Paul's and burial at Salisbury Cathedral
- (1 Nov.) christening of Henry Sidney (d. 1622), son of RS2 and DPS
- 1622 (16 Jul.) burial at Penshurst of Robert Sidney, son of RS2 and DPS
- (13 Sept.) James Hay (d. 1636) created Earl of Carlisle
- (26 Dec.) burial at Penshurst of Henry Sidney, son of RS2 and DPS
- 1623 (14/15 Jan.) birth of Algernon Sidney (executed 1683), son of RS2 and DPS
- 1624 (7 Mar.) christening of Lucy Sidney (d. 1625), daughter of RS2 and DPS
- 1624? (Spring) birth of William and Katherine, children of William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, and Lady Mary Wroth
- 1625 (23 Feb.) burial at Penshurst of Lucy Sidney, daughter of RS2 and DPS
- (27 Mar.) *death of King James I and accession of King Charles I; plague begins to spread across London and southern England*
- (1 May) *King Charles I marries (by proxy) Henrietta Maria, daughter of King Henri IV of France*
- (7 Jul.) christening of another Lucy Sidney, daughter of RS2 and DPS  
*King Charles I's First Parliament (18 Jun.–11 Jul., 1–12 Aug.); beginnings of war with Spain and disastrous English expedition to Cadiz (Oct.)*
- (30 Nov.) *Treaty of The Hague under which England, the Palatinate and the United Provinces form an alliance with King Christian IV of Denmark*
- 1626 (2 Feb.) *coronation of King Charles I (delayed from Jan. due to plague)*
- (23 Feb.) *impeachment of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, begins*
- (25 Apr.) Robert Sidney, first Earl of Leicester, marries Sarah Blount Smythe (d. 1655), widow of Sir Thomas Smythe
- (15 Jun.) *King Charles I dissolves Parliament and refuses to dismiss Buckingham*
- (13 Jul.) death of Robert Sidney, first Earl of Leicester; buried at Penshurst on 16 Jul.; succeeded by RS2  
*King Charles I Second Parliament (6 Feb.–15 Jun.)*
- (19 Sept.) christening of Robert Sidney (d. 1668), son of RS2 and DPS

- 1627  
(Jul.) *beginnings of war with France  
expedition to La Rochelle and the isle of Rhé under Duke of Buckingham; the remnants of his defeated forces return to England (Oct.)*
- 1628 (7 Jun.) *King Charles I is obliged to accept the Petition of Right, denying him the option of making forced loans and imprisonment at his personal command*  
(23 Aug.) *assassination of Duke of Buckingham; Lucy Percy Hay, Countess of Carlisle, contracts smallpox*  
(18 Oct.) *fall of La Rochelle to King Louis XIII of France*  
(17 Dec.) *Thomas Wentworth created Viscount Wentworth and appointed as Lord President of the North  
King Charles I Third Parliament (17 Mar.–26 Jun. 1628, 20 Jan.–10 Mar. 1629)*
- 1629 (Jan.) *Algernon Percy marries Anne Cecil (1612–37), daughter of William Cecil, second Earl of Salisbury*  
(10 Mar.) *King Charles I dissolves Parliament and begins eleven years of personal rule*  
(Apr.) *peace with France through the Treaty of Susa*  
(3 Nov.) *christening of Mary Sidney (d. 1648), daughter of RS2 and DPS*
- 1630 (10 Apr.) *death of William Herbert, third Earl of Pembroke*  
(29 May) *birth of Prince Charles, later King Charles II (d. 1685)*  
(5 Nov.) *peace with Spain through the Treaty of Madrid*  
(8 Dec.) *christening of Frances Sidney (d. 1651), daughter of RS2 and DPS*
- 1632 (Jan.) *Viscount Wentworth appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland*  
(Sept.–Nov.) *RS2's embassy to Denmark, accompanied by his sons, Philip and Algernon*  
(5 Nov.) *Algernon Percy becomes tenth Earl of Northumberland*
- 1633 (Jul.) *Viscount Wentworth travels to Ireland*  
(6 Aug.) *William Laud appointed Archbishop of Canterbury*  
(14 Oct.) *birth of Prince James, later King James II (d. 1701)*
- 1634 (30 Sept.) *christening of Isabella Sidney, daughter of RS2 and DPS*
- 1635 (15 Mar.) *Archbishop Laud appointed as First Lord of the Treasury*
- 1636 (Mar.) *Algernon Percy, tenth Earl of Northumberland, appointed Admiral of the Ship Money Fleet*  
(25 Apr.) *death of James Hay, Earl of Carlisle; buried 6 May at St Paul's Cathedral*  
(Apr.) *RS2 appointed ambassador extraordinary to France; leaves England on 7 May accompanied by his sons, Philip and Algernon; arrives in Jun. and serves there until May 1641*
- 1637 (6 Dec.) *death from smallpox of Anne Cecil (b. 1612) Percy, Countess of Northumberland*

- 1639 (Feb.) RS2 temporarily recalled from France (returned in Aug.)  
 (5 May) RS2 sworn a privy councillor  
 (11 Jul.) Dorothy Sidney marries at Penshurst Henry Spencer, later Earl of Sunderland
- 1640 (12 Jan.) *Viscount Wentworth created Earl of Strafford*  
*King Charles I's 'Short Parliament' (13 Apr.–5 May)*  
*King Charles I's 'Long Parliament' (30 Nov. 1640–20 Apr. 1653)*
- 1641 (12 May) *execution of Earl of Strafford*  
 (May) RS2 and his sons, Philip and Algernon, recalled to England  
 (Spring) birth of Henry Sidney (d. 1704), son of RS2 and DPS, later Earl of Romney  
 (14 Jun.) RS2 appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (but he never travels there)  
 (Aug.) RS2 briefly returns to France until early Oct.  
 (Oct.) *rebellion in Ireland*
- 1642 (4 Jan.) *King Charles I attempts to arrest the 'five members' of Parliament and leaves London*  
 (Apr.) Philip and Algernon Sidney arrive in Ireland  
 (May–Jun.) RS2 serves as temporary speaker of the House of Lords and is appointed Lord Lieutenant for Kent (replaced in Aug.)  
 (Jun.–Jul.) *King Charles I issues Commissions of Array and the navy declares for Parliament*  
 (1 Oct.) Algernon Percy, tenth Earl of Northumberland, marries as his second wife, Elizabeth Howard (d. 1705), daughter of Theophilus Howard, second Earl of Suffolk  
 (Oct.) *Battle of Edgehill (indecisive)*  
 (Nov.) *royalist forces advance to Turnham Green (parliamentarian victory)*  
 (Dec.) *formation of the Eastern Association, a parliamentarian army drawn from forces in the east of England; commanded by Edward Montagu, second Earl of Manchester, and including an elite cavalry troop led by Oliver Cromwell (disbanded in early 1645 and incorporated into the New Model Army)*
- 1643 (14 May) *death of King Louis XIII and accession of King Louis XIV of France*  
 (22 Jun.) Philip and Algernon Sidney leave Ireland  
 (15 Sept.) *English royalists agree to a ceasefire in Ireland*  
 (20 Sept.) death of Henry Spencer, first Earl of Sunderland, at the Battle of Newbury (indecisive)  
 (26 Sept.) Penshurst sequestered by the Kent county committee  
 (Nov.) RS2 replaced as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland by Earl of Ormond; *the Scots agree to send an army to assist Parliament*