

# Earl of Shrewsbury

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**Earl of Shrewsbury** (pronounced [ˈfrəʊzbɪ] "Shrowsbury" not [ˈʃruːzbɪ] "Shrewsbury"<sup>[1]</sup>) is a hereditary title of nobility created twice in the peerage of England.

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## History

### First creation

The first creation occurred in 1074 for Roger de Montgomerie, one of William the Conqueror's principal counselors. Roger thus became one of the most powerful magnates in England, ruling most of Shropshire and holding lands in eleven other counties. He was one of the Marcher Lords; his estate in Shropshire was to be a bulwark against Welsh incursion, and extended into Mid-Wales, the county of Montgomeryshire being named for him.

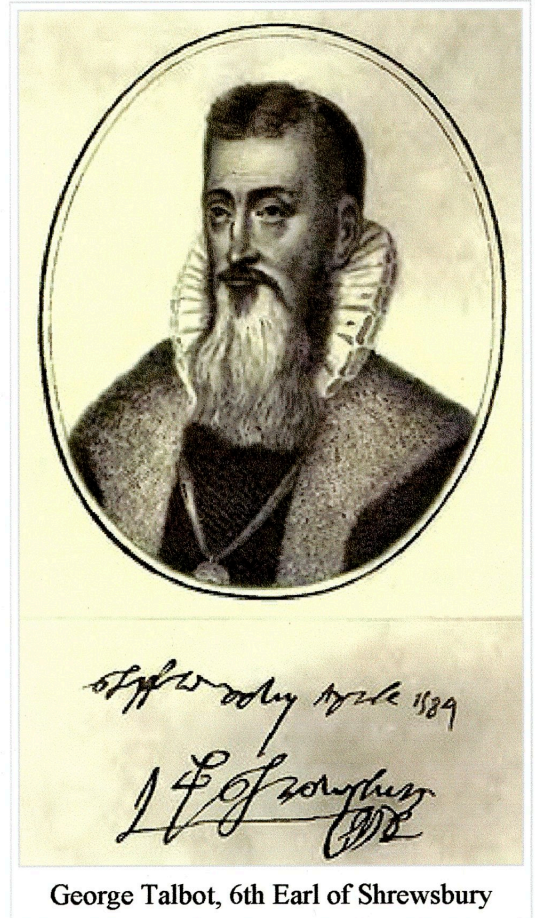
Roger was succeeded in 1094 by his younger son Hugh, his elder son Robert of Bellême succeeding to his lands in Normandy. On Hugh's death in 1098 the earldom passed to his brother Robert.

The title was forfeit in 1102 after the 3rd Earl, Robert, rebelled against Henry I and joined Robert Curthose's invasion of England in 1101.

These earls were sometimes styled **Earl of Shropshire**.

### Second creation

The title was created for a second time in the Peerage of England in 1442 when John Talbot, 7th Baron Talbot, an English general in the Hundred Years' War, was made **Earl of Shrewsbury**. He was also made hereditary Lord High Steward of Ireland. He was succeeded by his son, the second Earl, who had already succeeded as seventh Baron Furnivall on his mother's death in 1433. Lord Shrewsbury served as



George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury



both Lord Chancellor of Ireland and Lord High Treasurer of England. He was killed at the Battle of Northampton in 1460 during the Wars of the Roses.

His grandson, the fourth Earl, was Lord Steward of the Household between 1509 and 1538. His son, the fifth Earl, was summoned to the House of Lords through a writ of acceleration as Lord Talbot in 1533, five years before he succeeded his father. On his death the titles passed to his son, the sixth Earl. He was summoned to the House of Lords through a writ of acceleration as Lord Talbot in 1553. Lord Shrewsbury was entrusted with the custody of Mary, Queen of Scots, and also served as Earl Marshal from 1572 to 1590. He married as his second wife the famous Bess of Hardwick.

Shrewsbury was succeeded by his son from his first marriage to Lady Gertrude Manners, the seventh Earl. He represented Derbyshire in the House of Commons and served as Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire. He had no sons and on his death in 1616 the baronies of Talbot, Strange of Blackmere and Furnivall fell into abeyance between his three daughters. He was succeeded in the earldoms by his younger brother, the eighth Earl. He was Member of Parliament for Northumberland. He did not have a male heir either and was succeeded by his distant relative, the ninth Earl. He was the great-great-grandson of Sir Gilbert Talbot (d. 1518), third son of the second Earl of Shrewsbury. The family bought Barlow Woodseats Hall in 1593 as part of the estate.

He was succeeded by his nephew, the tenth Earl. He was the son of John Talbot. On his death the titles passed to his son, the eleventh Earl. He was killed in a duel with George Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham. His son, the twelfth Earl, was a prominent statesman. He was one of the Immortal Seven who in 1688 invited William of Orange to invade England and depose his father-in-law James II and later served under William and Mary as Secretary of State for the Southern Department and Secretary of State for the Northern Department. In 1694 he was created **Marquess of Alton and Duke of Shrewsbury** in the Peerage of England. The Duke was childless and on his death in 1718 the marquessate and dukedom became extinct.

He was succeeded in his other titles by his first cousin, the thirteenth Earl. He was the son of the Hon. Gilbert Talbot, second son of the tenth Earl. Lord Shrewsbury was in the Holy Orders of the Church of Rome. On his death the titles passed to his nephew George, the fourteenth Earl (who was the son of the Hon. George Talbot). He was childless and was succeeded by his nephew Charles, the fifteenth Earl (who was the son of Charles Talbot). He began in 1812 the creation of the extensive gardens at Alveton Lodge, Staffordshire (later renamed Alton Towers) which estate had been in the family since the 15th century. When he died the titles were inherited by his nephew John, the sixteenth Earl who was the son of the Hon. John Joseph Talbot. When in 1831 the principal home of the family at Heythrop, Oxfordshire was destroyed by fire he moved the family seat to Alton Towers. He was succeeded by Bertram, his second cousin once removed, the seventeenth Earl who was the great-grandson of the Hon. George Talbot, younger son of the aforementioned Gilbert Talbot (d. 1711), second son of the tenth Earl.

Bertram died unmarried at an early age in 1856. By his will he left his estates to Lord Edmund Howard (later Talbot), son of the Duke of Norfolk, but the will was contested by three distant relatives and after a long and expensive legal case the House of Lords ruled in 1860 in favour of Henry John Chetwynd-Talbot, 3rd Earl Talbot, who thus became the eighteenth Earl of Shrewsbury and Waterford. He was a descendant of the aforementioned the Hon. Sir Gilbert Talbot (d. 1518), third son of the second Earl of Shrewsbury (see the Earl Talbot for earlier history of this branch of the family). He also held the titles of **Baron Talbot**, of Hensol in the County of Glamorgan, and **Viscount of Ingestre**, of Ingestre Hall in the County of Stafford. Lord Shrewsbury was an Admiral in the Royal Navy and also served in the second Conservative administration of the Earl of Derby as Captain of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms (chief whip in the House of Lords) from 1858 to 1859.



His eldest son, the nineteenth Earl, also served as Captain of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, an office he held from 1874 to 1877 under Benjamin Disraeli. He was succeeded by his son, the twentieth Earl. He caused a scandal in Victorian England by eloping with a married woman, Ellen Miller-Mundy. They were later married. On his death the titles passed to his grandson, the twenty-first Earl. He was the son of Charles John Alton Chetwynd-Talbot, Viscount Ingestre. As of 2007 the peerages are held by the twenty-first Earl's eldest son, the twenty-second Earl, who succeeded in 1980. He is one of the ninety elected hereditary peers that remain in the House of Lords after the passing of the House of Lords Act 1999, and sits on the Conservative benches. He is also hereditary Lord High Steward of Ireland and as the holder of this office is allowed to bear a white staff at the Coronation of the British Monarch.

Lord Shrewsbury is the senior Earl on the Roll in the Peerage of England (the more senior earldom of Arundel being held by the Duke of Norfolk). The earldom of Waterford is sometimes called the "Premier Earldom of Ireland *on the Roll*", as the oldest Irish earldom, that of Kildare, has been a subsidiary title of the Duke of Leinster for centuries and the Earl held the oldest Irish earldom held by anyone ranked as an Earl. If the Viscount Mountgarret proves his presumed claim to the 1328 earldom of Ormonde, the Earls of Shrewsbury would lose this distinction, but they derive higher precedence from their English earldom in any event. Despite holding three differently named earldoms Lord Shrewsbury is always styled simply "The Earl of Shrewsbury".

The seat of the Earls of Shrewsbury was once Alton Towers until it was sold to The Tussauds Group. Their seat is now at Wanfield Hall in Staffordshire.

Three other members of the Talbot family may also be mentioned. The Hon. John Talbot, son of the first Earl of Shrewsbury by his second wife Margaret Beauchamp, was created Viscount Lisle in 1451. Admiral the Hon. Walter Carpenter (who assumed the surname of Carpenter in lieu of his patronymic Chetwynd-Talbot), second son of the eighteenth Earl, was a naval commander and Member of Parliament. Major-General the Hon. Sir Reginald Talbot, third son of the eighteenth Earl, was a soldier, politician and colonial governor.

## Titleholders

### Earls of Shrewsbury, First Creation (1074)

- Roger de Montgomerie, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury (d. 1094)
- Hugh of Montgomery, 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury (d. 1098)
- Robert of Bellême, 3rd Earl of Shrewsbury (1052–1113) (forfeit 1102)

### Earls of Shrewsbury, Second Creation (1442)

- John Talbot, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury (1390–1453)
- John Talbot, 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury (1413–1460)
- John Talbot, 3rd Earl of Shrewsbury (1448–1473)
- George Talbot, 4th Earl of Shrewsbury (1468–1538)
- Francis Talbot, 5th Earl of Shrewsbury (1500–1560)
- George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury (1528–1590)
- Gilbert Talbot, 7th Earl of Shrewsbury (1552–1616)
- Edward Talbot, 8th Earl of Shrewsbury (1561–1617)
- George Talbot, 9th Earl of Shrewsbury (1567–1630)

- John Talbot, 10th Earl of Shrewsbury (1601–1654)
- Francis Talbot, 11th Earl of Shrewsbury (1623–1667)
- Charles Talbot, 12th Earl of Shrewsbury (1660–1718) (created **Duke of Shrewsbury** in 1694)

### Dukes of Shrewsbury (1694)

- Charles Talbot, 1st Duke of Shrewsbury, 12th Earl of Shrewsbury (1660–1718)

### Earls of Shrewsbury, Second Creation (1442; Reverted)

- Gilbert Talbot, 13th Earl of Shrewsbury (1673–1743)
- George Talbot, 14th Earl of Shrewsbury (1719–1787)
- Charles Talbot, 15th Earl of Shrewsbury (1753–1827)
- John Talbot, 16th Earl of Shrewsbury (1791–1852)
- Bertram Arthur Talbot, 17th Earl of Shrewsbury (1832–1856)
- Henry John Chetwynd-Talbot, 18th Earl of Shrewsbury, 3rd Earl Talbot (1803–1868)
- Charles John Chetwynd-Talbot, 19th Earl of Shrewsbury, 4th Earl Talbot (1830–1877)
- Charles Henry John Chetwynd-Talbot, 20th Earl of Shrewsbury, 5th Earl Talbot (1860–1921)
- John George Charles Henry Alton Alexander Chetwynd-Talbot, 21st Earl of Shrewsbury, 6th Earl Talbot (1914–1980)
- Charles Henry John Benedict Crofton Chetwynd Chetwynd-Talbot, 22nd Earl of Shrewsbury, 7th Earl Talbot (b. 1952)

The Heir Apparent is the present holder's son James Richard Charles John Chetwynd-Talbot, Viscount Ingestre (b. 1978)

### See also

- Earl Talbot
- Baron Talbot
- Viscount Lisle
- Baron Furnivall
- Baron Strange of Blackmere

### References

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