

# Blue blood of Liverpool



**THE granting of Liverpool's first Royal Charter in 1207 will be celebrated all over the city on August 28.**

But, although most people know of King John's gracious act, Liverpool's Royal connections run much, much deeper.

And with the Queen set to visit the city in December for the Royal Variety performance at The Empire, here's a special Liverpool 800 look at the city's connections to the monarchy.

**Circa 900 A.D** - Forget 1207! Liverpool's royal connections begin when Aethelflaed, daughter of King Alfred grants land on both sides of the river Mersey. Place names with Scandanavian roots include Toxteth, Aintree, Aigburth, Croxteth and Thingwall.

**1066** - Duke William of Normandy sends William Molyneux to take charge of the area called Sefton, where his family would later become the Earls.

**1207** - As well as the Charter, King John creates the Royal Park of Toxteth to protect what were now the King's deer.



**October 1323** - Liverpool 'welcomes' the first visit by a reigning monarch when King Edward II stays for a week. Royal visit stretches town's budget as Castle roof has to be repaired at cost of £18. Population at the time was less than 1,000.

**1445** - Richard Molyneux obtains from King Henry VI the hereditary constablership of Liverpool Castle and the Master Forestership of the forests and parks, which included Toxteth.

**1485** - Sir Thomas, the 2nd Lord of Stanley, swings the Battle of Bosworth in the final stages for his stepson who is crowned Henry VII after defeating Richard III. His rewards from the War of the Roses include the title of Earl of Derby and land, including Toxteth.

**Circa 1500** - The first Earl of Derby builds Knowsley Hall to mark a visit of his stepson.

**1538-1541** - Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy dissolves the catholic Birkenhead Monastery and the monks rights to the Mersey Ferry pass into private hands.



**1575** - Croxteth Hall is built as ancestral seat for the Molyneux family as Earls of Sefton.

**1604** - The Royal Park of Toxteth is sold for £1,000. At the southern edge, Puritan tenants from Bolton give religious names to their farms. This area is called "The Holy Land", with the brook re-christened as the River Jordan. Other names survive from those days in Jericho Lane and Jerico Farm.



**1651** - Thomas Norris inherits Speke Hall. The first head of the family to espouse Protestantism. He was regarded as a Royalist and his uncle, Edward, was a staunch supporter and holds Liverpool for King Charles I for a period. At the end of the Civil War the Norris estates were confiscated by Parliament and not regained until 1662.

**1658** - King Charles I dissolves Parliament and to raise revenue he sells off towns. Liverpool is sold for £400 to London merchants who then sell the town back to the Molyneux family.

**1698** - William Norris, MP, is appointed Ambassador to the Court of the Mogul emperor Aurangzeb. Consequently Speke Hall passes to a granddaughter who marries Lord Sidney Beauclerk, son of the Duke of St Albans and grandson of Charles II and Nell Gwynn.

**1779 - 1780** - The 12th Earl of Derby establishes two of the world's most famous horse races -The Oaks and The Derby. (Note: the 16th Earl - Frederick Arthur Stanley as Governor General of Canada from 1888-1893, gave his name to the Stanley Cup - the premier trophy for Canada's national sport of ice hockey)

**1851** - Queen Victoria visits Liverpool - the first by a reigning Monarch since 1323 and knights the Mayor - Councillor John Bent.

**May 15 1880** - Queen Victoria grants Liverpool city status.

**July 19 1904** - King Edward VII lays foundation stone for Anglican Cathedral. Unbeknown to the monarch socialist pamphlets were placed under there the night before by a radical stonemason!

**July 1934** - King George V and Queen Mary open the Queensway tunnel, East Lancashire Road and Walton Hall Park and Birkenhead library all on one day!



**1949** - Raymond Lempereux begins work at Croxteth Hall as chef.

Originally trained under King Edward VII's French chef, Monsieur Gonin he was recommended to Lady Sefton by Mrs Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor. Croxteth Hall passed into council hands after the death of the last Earl in 1972.

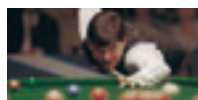
**1957** - The Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the second oldest in Britain - the society was established in 1840 - acquires Royal status from Queen Elizabeth II.

**2007** - Prince Charles re-opens St George's Hall after a five-year £23m upgrade. The Small Concert Room and a new heritage visitor centre are among the key attractions.

**1989**  
Hillsborough Disaster



**1991** John Parrott wins the World Snooker Championship



**1992** The Tall Ships return to Liverpool

**2000** Liverpool announces it is bidding for the European Capital of Culture title in 2008



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