

Preface

In this list cadet, associated, and stem families are arranged in a single entry when substantial property passed between one and the other providing continuity of parliamentary representation (even, as was the case in a few instances, when no blood or marriage relationship existed). Subsidiary/cadet families are usually grouped under the oldest, richest, or most influential stem family.

Female MPs are counted with their birth families, or, if not born into a parliamentary family, with their husband's family. Females who held peerages in their own right were barred from taking a seat in the House of Lords until legislation was passed in 1958 and 1963.

Illegitimate children who became MPs are included if the gaining of their seat was assisted by a family connection.

Relationships based on marriage are not counted unless they involved the transfer of estates.

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), of the Northern Irish Parliament, the Irish Senate, and of the Welsh Assembly have not been incorporated into the list, although selection for such offices is usually mentioned in the Notes section of the appropriate entry. A small number of parliamentary families continued to gain election to the *Dáil* after 1922. Those "TDs" (*Teachta Dála*) are included.

Cromwellian and Jacobite peers are not included. A few families would have qualified for inclusion had a bishop with a seat in the House of Lords been allowed to count along with two MPs. I have not, however, incorporated them into the list with the exception of the Huttons of Marske.

Members of families mentioned in the new *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* are noted, in part to recommend a source for further information and in part to indicate the role of the family in national life.

Information about the origins of medieval and early modern families is often extremely hard to interpret with precision. Sometimes it was clearly a judge, royal official, warrior, or merchant who launched a dynasty's ascent, but many families rose slowly, sometimes over a number of centuries in the manner of a coral reef, gradually accumulating landed estates through calculation, luck, patronage, and marriage to heiresses. For the purposes of my research on social origins any family that entered the gentry before 1660 the source of whose wealth was uncertain was counted as "landed". Information for families that rose after 1660 is usually (though not always) easier to identify. Most of the time one "founder" stands out, and his profession or business is the clear launching pad for future success. Detailed information about how social origins were identified and incorporated into the study may be found in my book, *Born to Rule: British Political Elites* (2000).