

# John Fitzalan

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No Picture Available

Born: 1338 Arundel Castle, England  
Married: 17 Feb 1358 Eleanor Maltravers  
Died: 13 Dec 1379 at sea, buried in Lewes, England  
Parents: Richard Fitzalan & Eleanor de Lancaster



Arundel Castle

**John FitzAlan, 1st Baron Arundel**

## *Lineage*

*He was born in [Etchingham, Sussex, England](#) to [Richard Fitzalan, 10th Earl of Arundel](#) and his second wife [Eleanor of Lancaster \(Eleanor Plantagenet\)](#).*



## **High Office**

Betchworth Castle

John was appointed Marshal by [Richard II of England](#) in 1377. He was summoned to [Parliament](#) 4 August 1377, by writ directed *Johanni de Arundell*.

On 26 July 1379<sup>[1] [2]</sup> he was given license to [crenellate](#) (i.e., permission to fortify) a stone castle on the site of an 11th century earthwork fortress in Surrey. Over the years since then the structure was rebuilt and remodelled and its remains are now known as [Betchworth Castle](#).

## **Naval Victory**

Being in command of a naval expedition in aid to the [Duke of Brittany](#), he defeated the French fleet off the coast of [Cornwall](#).

### ***Death at Sea***

Commanding a force with the purpose of bringing relief to the [Duke of Brittany](#), Sir John was compelled to wait for stronger winds. During this wait he decided to take refuge in a nunnery, where his men "took no notice of the sanctity of the place and... violently assaulted and raped"<sup>[3]</sup> those they found inside. Further to this Sir John "allowed his men to ransack the countryside as they liked and to impoverish the people"<sup>[4]</sup>. When the force eventually set out to sea, carrying with them goods stolen from a nearby church and under a pronouncement of excommunication from the wronged priests, the expedition was caught in a storm. [Thomas Walsingham](#) reports that during the panic of the storm, Sir John murdered those of his men who refused to make for shore for fear of being shipwrecked upon the rocks. Subsequently, after safely arriving on an island off the Irish coast, Sir John and his boat captain were swept back into the sea and drowned<sup>[5]</sup>.

### ***Burial***

***He was buried in [Lewes, Sussex](#).***

He was also an ancestor of the poet, [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#).

### ***Marriage & Children***

On February 17, 1358, John was married to Lady [Eleanor Maltravers](#) (Mautravers) (1345 – January 10), 1404/1406, daughter of [John Maltravers](#) and Gwenthin. They had at least four children (some references list more):

- [Joan FitzAlan](#) (D' Arundel) (c. 1360 – September 1, 1404). She married first [Sir William de Etchingham](#) and secondly [William de Brien](#).
- [John FitzAlan, 2nd Baron Arundel](#) (November 3, 1364 – August 14, 1390), who married [Elizabeth le Despenser](#).
- [Richard FitzAlan](#) (c. 1366 – June 3, 1419).
- [William Arundel](#) (c. 1369 – 1400). He was a [Knight of the Garter](#).

Information from online research at: [Ancestry.com](#)