

# Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Garden

## TIMELINE

YEAR	EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF FOUNTAINS ABBEY AND STUDLEY ROYAL	BUILDING HISTORY AT FOUNTAINS ABBEY AND STUDLEY ROYAL	IMPORTANT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS
1100	<p><u>1132</u> Archbishop Thurstan of York founded Fountains Abbey with 13 monks from St. Mary's, York.</p> <p><u>1135</u> Abbey saved from failure by Hugh, Dean of York, who brings much needed wealth.</p> <p><u>1144</u> Henry Murdac became Abbot.</p> <p><u>1147</u> Supporters of the deposed Archbishop William of York tried to kill Murdac and set fire to the abbey.</p> <p><u>1132-50</u> Numbers of monks and lay-brothers increased rapidly.</p>	<p><u>1132</u> Temporary shelters built around the elm tree in Skell valley.</p> <p><u>1133</u> Wooden church built under the guidance of Geoffrey de Ainai (Found by archaeologists in 1979-80).</p> <p><u>1136</u> First small stone church built (Foundations discovered by archaeologists in 1979-80). Monastery buildings rebuilt in stone.</p> <p><u>1147</u> Monastery damaged by fire but repaired soon after.</p>	<p><u>1098</u> Foundation of the Cistercian Order.</p> <p><u>1115</u> Foundation of Clairvaux Abbey – the mother house of Fountains.</p> <p><u>1115-53</u> St. Bernard of Clairvaux became a very influential man in the Christian world.</p> <p><u>1135-1154</u> Reign of King Stephen - the Anarchy.</p> <p><u>1100-1200</u> Cistercian Order expanded throughout Europe to become one of the largest, richest and most powerful orders of monks.</p>
1150	<p>Fountains Abbey became very rich through gifts of land from local landlords including Roger de Mowbray and Count Alan of Brittany. The monks established Granges on their land holdings which stretched north to Cleveland, west into Cumbria, south to Huddersfield and east to York.</p> <p><u>1150-1200</u> Enormous sheep flocks were built up on the high moors, west of Fountains. Monks exploit lead, iron and other resources on their lands.</p> <p><u>1194</u> Abbot Ralph Haget organised a refugee camp for the destitute, during the famine.</p>	<p><u>1150-70s</u> First stone church demolished and a new much larger one built. The nave and transepts still stand today.</p> <p><u>1146-1203</u> The monastery buildings were enlarged and rebuilt.</p> <p>(i) <u>1150-80s</u> Monks Dormitory lengthened. New Chapter House; Parlour; Sacristy; monks' Reredorter; North part of Cellerium; Guest Houses.</p> <p>(ii) <u>1180-1203</u> New Kitchen; Warming House; Lay-brothers Infirmary.</p>	<p><u>1100-1200</u> Growth of wool trade between England and Flanders. Rise of Italian merchants and bankers.</p> <p><u>1150-1200</u> Gothic architecture began to replace Romanesque.</p> <p>The simple life and poverty of the Cistercians began to relax.</p>
1199	<p><u>1150-99</u> Number of lay-brothers possibly 500-600.</p>		

<p>1200</p> <p>1299</p>	<p><u>1200-09</u> Cistercians consolidated their land holdings, through gifts, exchanges and buying land. Fountains became the most powerful Cistercian abbey in the north and the richest of its order in England. The Fountains sheep flocks reached about 15000 sheep.</p> <p><u>1274</u> Fountains Abbey was in debt to the York Jewry for £900.</p> <p><u>1291</u> Fountains Abbey's debts rose to £6,373. King appointed John of Berwick to sort out the abbey finances.</p>	<p><u>1203</u> Abbot John of York began building a new Presbytery much larger than the old one and more ornate.</p> <p><u>1211-47</u> Abbots John of Hesse and John of Kent completed the new Presbytery and the Chapel of the Nine Altars at its east end (unique at the time). John of Kent put a mosaic tile floor in the new parts of the church. The very large monks' Infirmary was built. (Floor area 12,000 sq. ft.)</p> <p><u>1250-99</u> Infirmary Chapel built.</p>	<p>Wool trade continued to increase in importance.</p> <p><u>1280</u> epidemic of sheep-scals reduced the productivity of the wool growers.</p> <p><u>1200-99</u> The Yearly General Chapters of the Cistercian Order passed rules against borrowing to finance new building projects.</p>
<p>1300</p>	<p><u>1314-24</u> Abbey granges were destroyed by war.</p> <p><u>1318</u> Fountains Abbey was occupied by a Scottish army.</p> <p><u>1300-50</u> The abbey estates were either run by hired servants and workers or the lands were rented out for others to farm.</p> <p><u>1300-1399</u> Monks began to eat meat on a regular basis (before this time only sick monks had eaten meat).</p>	<p><u>1300-99</u> The Infirmary Hall was divided with wooden partitions to create private wards. More fireplaces were added. Private apartments created for use by retired Abbots.</p> <p><u>1300-99</u> New stone kitchen added to Infirmary. Conduit House built.</p> <p><u>1300-99</u> The stone walls of the lay-brothers Choir were removed from the Nave, along with their stalls. Small chapels were made in the aisles.</p> <p><u>1316-36</u> Abbot Cuxwold extended the abbot's lodging.</p>	<p><u>1314-24</u> Following the English defeat at Bannockburn Scottish armies invaded and devastated the North.</p> <p><u>1316</u> Harvest failure and famine.</p> <p><u>1300-50</u> Number of lay-brothers dwindled and ceased to exist in the Order.</p> <p><u>1349</u> The Black Death killed between a third to a half of the population of England and the world.</p>

<p>1400</p> <p>1499</p>	<p><u>1410-35</u> A struggle between Abbot Frank (deposed 1413) and Abbot Ripon (1414-35) led to a minor war in the area in which Frank's supporters attacked and plundered the abbey (1423).</p> <p><u>1443-71</u> Abbot Greenwell restored order. The abbey had 30 monks and 117 servants.</p>	<p><u>1483</u> Abbot Darnton (1479-95) replaced the stone vaulting in the Presbytery with a wooden roof, as the stone one was damaging the walls. He repaired the walls and inserted the Perpendicular windows in the East and West walls of the Church.</p>	
<p>1500</p> <p>1599</p>	<p><u>1495-1526</u> Abbot Marmaduke Huby, considered to be the greatest of all the abbots of Fountains, restored the fortunes of the abbey. The number of monks increased from 22 to 52.</p> <p><u>1536</u> Abbot Thirsk was forced to resign by Layton and Legh, the King's Commissioners, after they accused him of many crimes, including theft. Marmaduke Bradley paid Cromwell 600 marks to be made abbot.</p> <p><u>1539</u> (26<sup>th</sup> November) Abbot Bradley, his prior and 30 monks voluntarily surrendered the abbey to the King. The treasure was removed to the King's Treasury.</p> <p><u>1540</u> The abbey and part of the estate were sold to Sir Richard Gresham, a London merchant.</p>	<p><u>1495-1526</u> The 160 ft. Perpendicular Huby's Tower was built. Huby also reinforced the Church Crossing and transepts which were collapsing, (possibly due to an earlier attempt to raise the height of the central tower).</p> <p><u>1539</u> The abbey stood empty, but complete as there had been a suggestion that it should be made into a Cathedral for a new Bishop.</p> <p><u>1540</u> The abbey was stripped of lead, timber and glass and left as a bare shell. The Muniment Room continued in use as a local courtroom.</p>	<p><u>The Dissolution of the Monasteries</u> Throughout his reign (1509-47) King Henry VIII was desperately short of money to finance his wars, buildings and extravagant life.</p> <p><u>1533</u> Henry divorces Catherine of Aragon and marries Anne Boleyn.</p> <p><u>1534</u> Act of Supremacy makes Henry Head of the Church of England.</p> <p><u>1535</u> Cromwell made Vicar-General. All abbeys were surveyed and visited.</p> <p><u>1536</u> Smaller monasteries were closed and property confiscated by King. The Pilgrimage of Grace – the north rebelled against the closures, but failed.</p> <p><u>1536-39</u> Greater monasteries surrendered to the King.</p>

1600	<p>Stephen Proctor bought the abbey from the Greshams in 1597. Proctor was an ambitious man and a Protestant. He was unpopular with many of his neighbours because he persecuted local Catholics. About 1600 Fallow deer were brought to Studley Royal?</p>	<p><u>1595-1604</u> Proctor had Fountains Hall built partly using stone from the abbey. It has a Renaissance façade but a Medieval layout inside.</p> <p><u>1600</u> The Mallory family probably created the deer park at Studley Royal? According to Mark the origin of the Park dates back to 1343. The first documentary reference to deer was in 1670s.</p>	<p>Persecution of Roman Catholics (which was outlawed). Guilty people were executed as traitors.</p> <p><u>1650</u> Gunpowder Plot. Catholics tried to blow up King James I.</p>
1700	<p><u>1693</u> John Aislabie inherited Studley Royal estate. The abbey was owned by the Messenger family.</p> <p><u>1720</u> Aislabie offered M.J. Messenger £4,000 for the abbey but the deal fell through. At the same time Aislabie was expelled from Parliament (he was M.P. for Ripon and Chancellor of the Exchequer) for his involvement in the South Sea Company. Aislabie devoted the rest of his life to his gardens.</p> <p><u>1742</u> John Aislabie died and was succeeded by his son William, who continued his father's work.</p> <p><u>1768</u> William Aislabie bought Fountains Abbey from the Messengers for £16,000.</p>	<p><u>1718</u> Aislabie began work on the Water Gardens with basic engineering of ponds and canalising of River Skell. He began the tree planting.</p> <p><u>1728-32</u> The Studley Royal stable block was built in the Palladian style.</p> <p><u>1728-42</u> The following were built in the gardens: 1770 Temple of Piety; Banqueting House; Octagon Tower; Serpentine Tunnel; Grotto; Rustic Bridge. The classical statues were added and the main avenue of lime trees was planted in the deer park.</p> <p>House rebuilt 1748-54.</p> <p><u>1767</u> The abbey was added to the garden. William Aislabie landscaped the valley below the lake in the picturesque landscape style.</p> <p><u>1790-91</u> John Martin of Ripon excavated the Chapter House and found several abbots' tombs.</p>	<p>In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century garden design was influenced by the French with their formal Water Gardens. Later there was a move towards 'Natural' landscapes (e.g. Capability Brown).</p> <p><u>1700-99</u> The upper classes sent their sons on the Grand Tour of Europe, as part of their education. From this they brought back Classical ideas. Many upper class tourists and topographers visited gardens and houses.</p> <p><u>1720</u> The South Sea Company had sold overpriced shares to investors who lost all their money when the company went bust.</p>
1799			

