

The RICARDIAN HERALD

Connecting our global community



The magazine for the worldwide branches and groups of the Richard III Society



A study in grief

“Instead of thinking of Richard Plantagenet as King Richard III, and the monster dredged up by the Tudors and their propagandist Shakespeare, let us, for a change, consider him as a human being, and moreover as a father, husband and widower.”

The insights and reflections of the late Marguerite Johnson, of Toronto, Canada, as to Richard's state of mind at Bosworth offer a unique glimpse of a man not so much troubled by Henry Tudor, but by personal grief and loss on a tragic scale.

Pages 7-11

P2

A Word from Matt
Working together for a common cause

P3

A Word from Jane
New groups, more members and a day of celebration

P4

Missing Princes Project in America
Years of research under the spotlight



A good day in Penrith

Penrith & North Lakes Group marked a special anniversary.
Page 12



Fellowship of the White Boar

The Richard III Society was founded in 1924 as the Fellowship of the White Boar. Next year we celebrate.
Page 13

Working together for a common goal

By Matt Lewis

Time seems to be flying at the moment.

There's so much going on, so much to do, and summer is pretty much over without bothering to visit the UK so far. I hope everyone is having a good year and avoiding the worst extremes of weather some places have been experiencing.

We recently had a meeting with overseas Branches and Groups to discuss the problems around the costs of mailing abroad. An increase in the supplement was a hard pill to be asked to swallow, coming alongside a subscription increase. I am grateful to those who attended for their views and for their support of what the society is doing. We committed to try and get an electronic version of our main publications ready before the next round of subscription renewals. The aim is to offer the chance to opt out of a physical copy. Although it may not be ideal for some members, it offers a way to mitigate increasing costs that are beyond our control. What we don't want to do is lose members because of something we can't help.

On a more positive note, we are gearing up for the centenary celebrations next year. I hope Branches and Groups are finding ways to engage with the celebrations. At the risk of volunteering her, Jane is on hand to help if any assistance is required. It would be good if we could make the centenary a real shop window for the society, the work we do, and the warm welcome that Branches and Groups can offer at a more local level.

Richard III involved himself in local matters, and in the problems of individuals who might have been beneath the notice of some of his rank. I



think that was because he recognised the importance of every part of a body. That notion is expressed perfectly in the fragmentary remains of Bishop Russell's speech to Richard's Parliament in January 1484. The theme of the opening speech was *In uno corpore multa membra habemus* – In one body there are many members. The speech closed with the sentiment that 'every estate, be he high, be he low, is ordained to support the others'. It amazes me that people still view Richard's Parliament as a desperate bid to secure his throne. It was clearly a radical attack on the structure of society. Maybe too radical. It's also about unity and working together towards a common goal.

The society aims to reflect Richard's own view that the whole is the sum of its parts. No one part is more important than another, and each relies on the others for success. Branches and Groups are a vital part of the society, and you are central to reaching the society's aims. I see so much of the great work you do, and I know there's so much more I don't get to see. So, from me, on behalf of the society, thank you all very much. Together, the body of the society can look forward to a second century of research and achievement to champion the story of King Richard III.

Matt Lewis is chairman of the Richard III Society

New groups, more members and a day of celebration

By Jane Trump

It has been a decidedly weird year for weather. I do hope that members have not been too impacted by the extremes that have been reported on.

As Matt says, apart from June, the UK has been rather sidelined by summer this year, but hopefully we will see a positive change in the weeks to come (she says hopefully)! However, the weather has certainly not restricted B&G activity. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading, in their newsletters, about what the overseas branches have been doing and have learned a lot from the excellent research being carried out for journal articles. It would be great for this research to be showcased further in the herald for the whole B&G community to enjoy. Please do think about sharing research past and present with Sue for future editions.

Well done to those B&Gs who have been promoting *The Lost King* film. The society has benefited from many new members, and I am sure that promotional efforts by the B&G community have really contributed to this increase in interest in Richard and the society. In the UK, B&Gs have had a presence in major medieval events in July. The Yorkshire Branch joined the society at the Middleham Festival to man a stand, and Graham Mitchell from the Yorkshire Branch gave a lecture, entitled *Richard, the Northern King*.

Two Branches had a presence at the annual Tewkesbury Festival. The North Mercia Branch had its own stand and the Gloucester and Bristol Branch manned a stand with members of the society's Events Committee.

Our newest Group, the South Wales Group, was keen to promote itself and the society at the prestigious Royal Welsh Show. Despite awful weather they manned a stand for four days. I have been delighted



to receive high level information about plans being made by the B&G community for the synchronised Day of Celebration on July 6, 2024. A whole range of events is being planned, including local leafleting to online events, and the hire of a cinema to show *The Lost*

King. This event will also host a Q&A session. Celebrations will also be shared with those at the 2024 Middleham Festival. There are also study days on other dates - and more besides - being planned. Further to Matt's comment, if I can be of assistance with any activity for next year, do please get in contact. I am only too happy to help! Finally, I am excited to report that hopefully we will have a new overseas Group. A new member in Dublin has said he wishes to establish a Group in Ireland again. I look forward to working with him in the next

Jane Trump is branches and groups liaison officer for the Richard III Society

Missing princes project - America

*Final Report
July 2023*

By Sally Keil



In 2018 the New England chapter of the Richard III Society – American Branch invited Philippa Langley to address us and tell us all about her latest (at that time) endeavour, The Missing Princes Project.

As expected, her talk inspired us all, but being over here ‘across the pond’, how could we possibly help? Then I recalled that, at the turn of the 20th century, many rich Americans travelled to Europe to demonstrate their wealth, find young sons of the peerage to marry their daughters, and to buy up as much ‘culture’ and ‘sophistication’ as they could! Considering that, I thought maybe there is a collection here in the US that might be holding a letter, or document of some kind, that might offer a clue to the fate of the missing princes? When I found the University of Chicago edition of the *Directory of Collections in the United States and Canada with Pre-1600 Manuscript Collections*, I knew I had found my guide!

To comb through these hundreds of institutions, looking at thousands of items, I knew I needed a lot of help, so I turned to the members of the American Branch. I knew that it ‘would take a village’, and it certainly did. More than 40 people offered to help

across the five-and-a-half years that it took to complete our mission. Speaking only for myself I began this work as a complete novice in medieval research. I have learned a lot! While it would have been truly fabulous if a clear and obvious ‘clue’ was found that revealed what happened to the boys, it would have been immediately suspect as so many dedicated Ricardians and medievalists have been documenting the reigns of King Richard III and Henry Tudor for so long.

Instead, it was understood that we were hunting for something not previously found by others, residing here in the US and/or Canada, that would have been 1) a primary source document, and 2) was dated between 1483 and 1509 (year of the last sighting of the boys to the year Henry VII died). Our ‘plan of attack’ was simple: if we turned something up that met these two very specific criteria, we looked at it with our sharp focus: Could this be some sort of clue to the missing princes?

More than 40 people offered to help across the five-and-a-half years that it took to complete our mission.

Most of the pre-1600 items we found did not meet the project’s requirements. Many were books of hours, pieces of artwork, many religious texts, etc. Letters and documents were definitely in the minority of the collections we searched. However, we did turn up a number of legal and financial documents – deeds, warrants, grants, receipts, financial rolls, etc – that *might* be a clue if we were to ‘follow the money’ in the hunt for the princes. Could these items be links in a payoff of some kind

for hiding/transporting/keeping the princes? As standalone documents it's impossible to know. However, if in the future other documents are identified as being associated with any of the people named in the items we found, maybe putting the two together as puzzle pieces, a possible theory might emerge. Therefore, I have kept a list of the individuals named in the financial/legal documents residing here in North America, dated between 1483-1509, that we uncovered. Those names may come in handy in the event some future puzzle piece is found!

The most fun 'find' was a snippet of King Edward IV's hair at Emory University in Atlanta Georgia! However, the provenance given was pretty shaky and, considering the costs involved in mitochondrial DNA testing, we decided to let the hair sample stay in Atlanta and look to other hair samples with more solid provenances if testing should ever be undertaken.

When I set up the assignments for everyone working with me on this, I did so with a geographic orientation, thinking that a trip to a library or university might be needed. Then Covid hit! So much for that idea. However, I think we all quickly discovered how 'digital' the world of medieval documents has become and how libraries around the world have linked their collections together in support of scholarly research. However, following one hyper link after another you can quickly go down 'the rabbit hole' and get lost for hours in the computerized library stacks! It's wonderful, but these fun 'side trips' were to sources shared around the world and therefore not directly tied to our mission of hunting for overlooked items residing here in America.

There were a number of sites located in the US and/or Canada that have tremendous medieval collections: Henry Huntington Museum in California, Princeton University in New Jersey, Harvard University Law Library in Massachusetts. (I do not represent this list as any sort of 'complete' listing.) A thorough scouring of these libraries was way outside the scope of this project, but they are very

With Covid now under control, a visit to the institutions listed would be a great idea should someone wish to carry our project's goal forward by visiting them and talking with the library staff.

worthy of a careful 'once over' at some point in the future. With Covid now under control, a visit to the institutions listed would be a great idea should someone wish to carry our project's goal forward by visiting them and talking with the library staff.

One of our biggest frustrations was not being able to read and/or understand the documents we found. A number of the items found are awaiting review by someone skilled in palaeography.

We have a few items currently outstanding

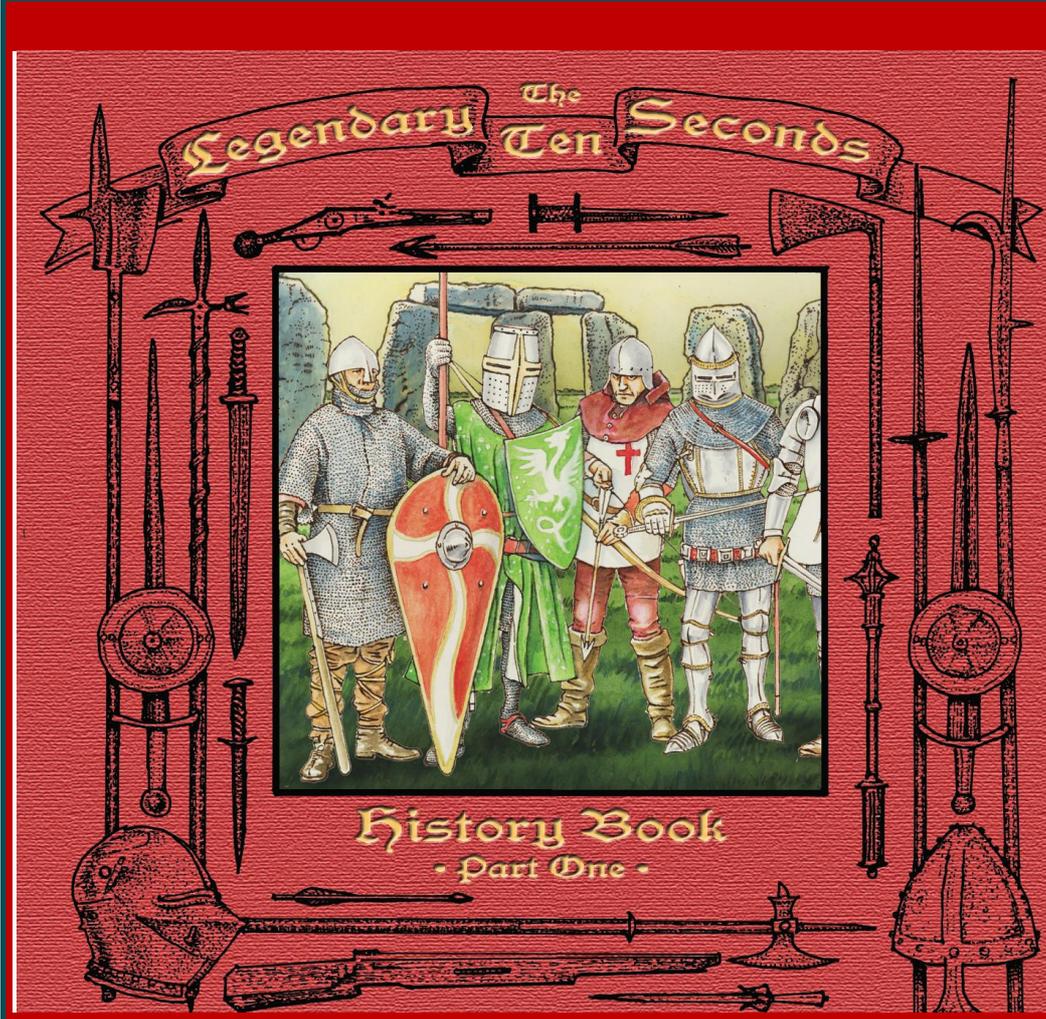
1) Five 'diplomatic documents' dated within 1483-1509 that were found at Stanford University in California are currently being read by one of our team members. She has confirmed the dates of these documents meet our criteria (the descriptions given on the Stanford University website were incorrect. The university has been made aware of this and will be reviewing these acquisitions.) Our member has now begun the task of finding out who wrote each one, and to whom was it addressed.

2) The bound manuscript given to Edward IV's son when he was Prince of Wales. It resides at Princeton University in New Jersey: the citation is *Garrett MS. 168: Testament de Amyra Sultan Nichemedy, ca. 1482, southern Netherlands (Bruges)*. It is an anonymous letter, written in Italian, dated September 12, 1481, that was translated into French and then bound by Caxton in Westminster. The arms of the Prince of Wales decorate the bound manuscript indicating that it was produced for Prince Edward. While not a letter

or document, it is located here in the US and we have included it in our project because pasted to the front pastedown are two signatures: “*Elysabeth the kyngys dowghter boke*” and “*Cecyl the kyngys dowghter.*” This manuscript is known to the Ricardian world as it is mentioned in *Richard III’s Books* by Anne Sutton and Livia Visser-Fuchs. This might suggest that this book was also owned at some point by Richard III but it is only mentioned by Sutton & Visser-Fuchs as an example of a type of literary work for its time, *not* that it was ever owned by Richard III. Also, they make no mention of the princess’ signatures in it. After her marriage to Henry VII Elizabeth would have styled herself as Queen, so her possession of this bound manuscript passed to her sometime after Edward, Prince of Wales, was last seen in the summer of 1483 but before her marriage to Henry Tudor in early 1486.

Assuming this manuscript was ever received by the prince, it would presumably have been kept in his library at Ludlow. By taking the book and signing it as her own, Elizabeth knew that her brother would not be looking for it. When did Prince Edward’s Ludlow household get dissolved? Did it get moved to London (presumably) after the death of his father King Edward IV? Looking for the answers to these questions might lead us towards a clue. Future research is required.

3) We found an account book from the court of Henry VII, dated 1500, in the Harvard University Law Library. A digital copy was purchased and has been passed on to Philippa Langley for further review by someone who has the skills to read it. Wouldn’t it be great if there is an account of an expense incurred on behalf of ‘the bastard son’?



New Ricardian tunes

Legendary Ten Seconds musician Ian Churchward has released a new album, *History Book Part One*.

It is now on Bandcamp with a release date of September 15, 2023. It is an album of English folk rock history themed songs including several Ricardian tunes.

<https://thelegendarytenseconds.bandcamp.com/album/history-book-part-one>

Richard III — a study in grief and bereavement

by the late Marguerite Johnson Toronto, Ontario

The histories and biographies of Richard III have all had many theories to offer as to why Richard was not at his physical best on the morning of the Battle of Bosworth. This speculation has been going on down the centuries from More and Vergil, Holinshed and Shakespeare, Kendall and Cheetham, and the Croyland Continuator to the present day. However, both Kendall and Cheetham seem to be in agreement that the invasion of Henry Tudor, of itself, was not being taken all that seriously by Richard, and both make it clear that there really was nothing pre-ordained about it – Bosworth did not have to be fought at that particular moment in time.

The statements regarding Richard's actions and appearance on the morning of Bosworth are matters of importance in that they show a considerable strain which would, under the circumstances be only normal and typical of any man under the stress of a similar set of circumstances. Since he doesn't seem to have been too worried about it himself, one can only assume that it was apparently something to which he was accustomed. Apart from the actual treason of the Stanleys and Northumberland there are a number of symptoms evident that do point to another very good reason for this condition. The Croyland Continuator says that Richard spent a sleepless night and adds that at daybreak his drawn features were even more livid and ghastly than usual, that there were no chaplains present to perform divine services for the king, nor any breakfast prepared to



Richard and Anne: stained glass window in Cardiff Castle

refresh his flagging spirits. Why flagging spirits?"
Why the ghastly and livid drawn features

Instead of thinking of Richard Plantagenet as King Richard III, and the monster dredged up by the Tudors and their propagandist Shakespeare, let us, for a change, consider him as a human being, and moreover as a father, husband and widower: a man bereft of wife, son, brother, uncle and aunt all within approximately 18 to 24 months time. I do not include the nephews in the Tower as I think they were still alive after Richard's death and therefore are not part of this study.

To begin with, Richard's unique actions immediately following the death of his brother, King Edward IV, have seemed difficult for some historians to understand. Personally, I find his actions normal enough to satisfy my curiosity. In the light of twentieth century psychology, I see Richard as suffering from a very severe case of grief, which is something that is not really understood even today, many years later, and grief is a very powerful emotion.

Some historians have even thought that Richard was close to a nervous breakdown by the time Bosworth was fought. It would not be too surprising if it were true when one considers the evidence available. It is well known that person's judgement

may be impaired by severe grief, and it is quite possible that grief had distorted Richard's judgement. Grief is something no one escapes, yet very little is known about it and as a result preparation for the day when grief is our own has been practically non-existent. Grief may be composed of shock, suffering and recovery, three phases which may overlap in time yet still provide us with a very helpful framework for studying this phenomenon. These symptoms may be only nature's way of protecting us against a pain too severe to be borne all at once, but they do cause complications.

One might also keep in mind that by the time Richard had reached the age of seven, death, illness, grief, and personal physical upheaval in the form of imprisonment, and exile were no strangers to him. At the age of seven, he had lost his father, brother Edmund, and an uncle all in one small skirmish; from fifth in line to the throne he had become, overnight, third, and had been shipped off to Burgundy by his mother for his own safety. By the time he reached the age of twenty-six, his brother George had been executed in the now famous "butt of Malmsey" and at the age of thirty, in 1483 his brother King Edward died suddenly. As if this were not bad enough his own twelve-year-old son died at Easter 1484 exactly a year after Edward, and Richard's wife Anne followed in March 1485. In 1484 he had lost also his father's sister, his aunt Isabel whose husband the Earl of Eu and Essex had died the week before Edward. In his short thirty-two years Richard had suffered most of the sorrows it would take the average man of today 65 or 80 years to experience. Grief! One would have expected Richard III to have been a past master of the subject, but no one ever is. The shock stage may last a week or two, possibly six, following the death of a loved one, with feelings of numbness, unreality, and being cut off from others. The suffering stage is sometimes called (and not without cause) the "roller coaster" - months of ups and downs, and this

is the stage that I believe Richard had just reached as Henry Tudor landed and the Battle of Bosworth was about to be fought. It seems to me that Richard was in a "down" spell and had he waited for even one day or a week the results of that battle could have been totally different. Edward was ten years Richard's senior and in a case such as that there is also the possibility of his assuming a "father image" for Richard; after all, he had been at the impressionable age of seven when their father had been killed in battle.

Whatever the cause of his depression, it seems to have been from this time on that Richard had developed a decided hostility toward Henry Tudor, whom he recognized as his enemy and the disturber of his country's peace. Feelings of hostility and anxiety can arise out of regressive tendencies, as the death of a loved one is interpreted as desertion. That the loss of Anne and his son who were very real and emotionally significant persons in Richard's life cannot be denied, their deaths were drastic personal separations; the loss of a spouse and child being considered the severest losses of all. At this point I would say that he was very deeply involved in the suffering stage, or as it has been called the "roller coaster," and right here I would say the roller coaster was going downhill.

Normal grief reaction indications reported within a short time of the death of a close family tie are: depression, sleep disturbances, crying, difficulty in concentrating, loss of interest, anxiety attacks, irritability, tiredness and forgetfulness. Richard evidently was much the same model as twentieth century man in his reactions, for according to contemporary sources and some of his biographers he seems to have suffered from most of these symptoms including bad dreams when he did sleep. According to Vergil, the Croyland Continuator, and More, who for once may have been right, though not for the reasons he stated, Richard had become jumpy, bit his lips, fidgeted with his dagger and

slept badly. These symptoms all fit together and were just the sort of thing that would be noticed by those around him.

The Duke of Norfolk is said to have complained that Richard had not kept him informed of the whereabouts of the royal troops and attributes this to forgetfulness. As said above forgetfulness is quite normal in the deeply bereaved person, however in this case it is somewhat out of place because Norfolk was one of Richard's most loyal and able supporters and was killed in the ensuing battle. It is just possible that the death of the man who had been his friend since boyhood days at Middleham could have been the final straw which caused Richard to throw caution to the winds and head for Henry Tudor, leaving himself wide open to the treachery of the Stanleys (if one believes the story of the "desperate charge"). It is my opinion that Richard was winning that battle, otherwise treachery would have been unnecessary. The so called "desperate charge" may have been a carefully laid plan that was thrown into the battle prematurely – a military tactic considered "brilliant" when it succeeds, and "desperate" when it fails. Also, a charge of this type could have been triggered by a fit of impatience, irritability, tiredness or simply hostility – a case of "let's get it over with as fast as possible," especially if the plan was all ready and waiting to be used.

Our culture pressures the bereaved to "snap out of it" in a month or two, but those who have lost someone important, especially a spouse or child, know that their grief work has taken a year or two, perhaps more. Many report that the most difficult time comes six months to a year after one death, therefore it is difficult to imagine how much longer it would take to recover from five severe losses in quick succession, plus three at the age of seven, and one just four years before Edward. Friends of Richard might well have given some thought to the grieving process, because after all the flowers have

faded and the initial rally of support has all drifted away, I am sure that Richard would have agreed with me, that the soreness and pain of the parting would still be extremely sharp. Society has saddled men with a heavy burden in its expectations of the masking of the emotions of sorrow, affection and tenderness. As a result of this expectation the tendency to inhibit such emotions is built into many men on an unconscious level, and they do not give expression too openly.

Richard scarcely had time to recover from the first blow before the second, third, fourth and fifth hit him. Each of these new deaths would also have the power to reopen the pain of others in years past that he thought he had recovered from. From personal experience and from observations of my friends, I would estimate that until the first year or anniversary is safely past the bereaved is unlikely to have recovered from the suffering stage to any large degree. One carries on, keeps a stiff upper lip, and the world goes about its' business as if nothing had ever happened and the bereaved is expected to pull up his socks and carry on; but the "roller coaster" continues to go up and down.

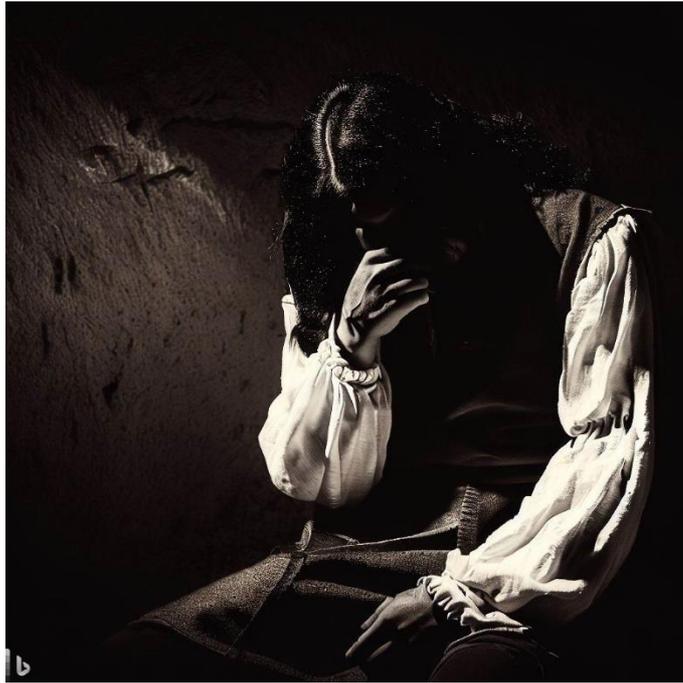
Above all, the loss of a child may take much longer, and the older the child the harder the parents take their loss. One can easily fit Richard into this outline, possibly he never did get over the loss of his son. It is only in the present century

that the death of a child has become a rare event, and evidence suggests that during the centuries when most parents would expect to lose up to half their children in infancy or early childhood they accepted their losses more



Edward Of Middleham

readily than we do today. Since we have fewer children per family today than in the past it may be that the tie between is correspondingly greater. In the case of Richard and Anne, who had only had the one child in 12 years of marriage, the loss of their young son and heir must have been a major calamity. In all probability their attitude may have been similar to



Despair always seems to lie in wait; and with Anne's death in 1485 Richard seems to have reached the deepest despair.

our own present-day approach to the death of a child. The boy had always had delicate health but evidently no one expected unexpectedly it would have the power of a heavy blow to his father, mother and country as a whole.

Time of year has a great deal to do with how long a recovery may take. Days like Christmas or Easter et cetera all assume a new meaning for the deeply bereaved person. Birthdays may slip by unnoticed, perhaps not intentionally but in the pressure of day to day living they simply tend to disappear. Richard lost Edward IV at Easter of 1483, and his son at Easter of 1484, and had he lived till Easter of 1486 I don't doubt the memory of his son and brother would have been as fresh as ever in his mind. However, it seems to me that Richard would not need to be a very superstitious person in order to start looking on Easter as a time of bad luck for the House of York.

Following the death of his son, Richard is said to have been "near mad with grief." Even so, someone had to take charge and it is extremely unlikely that Richard would ever have delegated to others so

personal a duty as arranging for the funeral services and the burial of his son in Sheriff Hutton* church, Yorkshire.* The final decisions would have to be made by Richard himself. Choosing and arranging for a suitable site or location, and the inscription on a tombstone or casket can be a most difficult and heart-breaking experience for the newly bereaved person. At Sheriff Hutton church one can still see the alabaster tomb of Prince Edward, with its carving of the king kneeling before a crucifix. This tomb

was restored some time ago, with the late Queen Mary being one of those contributing to its restoration. However painful this duty may have seemed to Richard it would still be the beginning of recovery. At this point, one should take into account that while the father may appear to take the loss of his child more lightly than the mother, in actual fact it takes the father much longer to reach a complete recovery, and it is doubtful if this father ever did recover. An interesting aside at this point would be that among the many things blamed for the demise of Edward III in 1377, is that he died heartbroken at the death of his son the Black Prince in 1376.

Despair always seems to lie in wait; and with Anne's death in 1485 Richard seems to have reached the deepest despair Yet, he must have had the presence of mind, resourcefulness - call it what you will, to arrange for her burial in Westminster Abbey and the memorial services. After that he is said to have immersed himself in the work of the country and whenever possible he found recreation outdoors hunting. He is known to have sent abroad all over Europe for falcons for hunting. At this point he is

said to have told Archbishop Rotherham, that he had now lost everything in life worth living for. When the bereaved person starts talking about the deceased it is a sure sign of recovery or recovering. Actually, talking about the deceased is a very special need of the bereaved. There should be at least one friend willing to listen during the loneliness of this period. The listener may be bored to tears hearing the same story told over and over, but the mourner needs to tell the story of his loss and memories of the deceased over and over and over; it is all part of the long, involved process of recovery. This was where Archbishop Rotherham fit in, as the listener, but evidently, he was also a gossip and did not keep the confidences entrusted to him.

At the time of a death, survivors are commonly torn between their feelings of love and grief. It is a common thing to recall their own shortcomings with respect to the deceased and to reproach themselves. Richard and Anne were no exception for they are known to have reproached themselves for not having had more children, and Richard for not having been home sooner; the Progress around the country had taken so much longer than he had intended. Feelings of guilt and remorse are almost universal to grief. So are anger and hostility, which may be directed at anyone, including the deceased, who is seen as deserting the bereaved; however, in this case it became Henry Tudor.

The blaming of Henry could have answered so many of the unsolved questions posed today. One can say without much doubt, if Richard's spirits were "flagging" and his features more "drawn and ghastly than usual," he certainly had plenty of reasons heaped upon him over the years. Death of the young and vigorous, when they still have much to give, and the loss of the gifted and rare person in midstream, is comparatively unusual in good times, but at the time of the Wars of the Roses it became tragically frequent. To my mind, if Richard III had won that battle he was ready for a big step forward

into a new era. However, I am certain that had Richard Plantagenet lived, John Cabot would have received considerably more for discovering America for England than the petty cash meted out to him by that parsimonious Henry "10 pounds, 12 pence" Tudor – Richard III was generous in more ways than one.

Bibliographical note

This is not intended to be a bibliography of the whole subject but simply a list of the more useful works I consulted.

- ⊗ Thomas Costain *The Last Plantagenets*. Exceedingly sympathetic to Richard III
- ⊗ Paul Murray Kendall *Richard III*
- ⊗ Anthony Cheetham *Life and Times of Richard III*
- ⊗ David K. Switzer *Dynamics of Grief*. While this book does not mention Richard or any other historic figures, it is a wonderful text on the subject.

The Library of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) was most helpful in supplying information on grief and bereavement.

—Marguerite Johnson, Toronto

Canadian Editor's note

*Marguerite was a valued and active member of the Society in Toronto, and Editor of the *RIII* for many years. She first gave this paper in 1975, so readers almost fifty years later will recognize some statements which reflect history as it was appreciated at the time, especially the information about the church at Sheriff Hutton. Many of her statements are classic and timeless.

To my mind, Marguerite's insights and personal thoughts make this one of the finest pieces of reflection (as opposed to heavy-duty research) our Branch of the Society has produced.

Images

1. Stained glass depiction of Richard III and Anne Neville, in Cardiff Castle. By VeteranMP - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=30408894>
2. Edward of Middleham. Original from the Rous Roll, by John Rous, 15th century

Publicity and new recruit blossom from a young rose

Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was appointed Warden of the English West March by his brother in 1470 and given the lordship of Penrith in 1471.

Thus 2021 was the 550th anniversary and the Penrith & North Lakes Group planned to mark the event. Unfortunately, Covid intervened, so it was not until this year that we were able to carry out our plans.

St Andrew's Church in the centre of Penrith is a relatively modern restoration, but it contains a window with medieval glass saved from the original building which was burnt down in the 18th Century. This is known as the Neville Window, as the fragments of glass depict Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland, and his wife Joan Beaufort (although the caption added in the glass wrongly identifies the couple as Richard of York and his wife Cecily). Ralph and Joan were Richard's grandparents.

The Penrith Group place white roses in this window every year on August 22, but to mark the 550th anniversary we planned something more permanent: a white rose bush in the churchyard just under the Neville Window.

Having obtained the necessary permissions from the vicar and parish council, we purchased a William and Catherine Rose. Philippa Langley kindly agreed to plant the rose for us.

Penrith library, which is adjacent to the church, lent us their display about Richard which they had put together a few years ago. With the date for the planting fixed for May 24, we notified the Society's Events Committee and Amanda Geary organised



Philippa Langley plants the William and Catherine Rose under the Neville Window at St Andrew's Church, Penrith.

at the response, as Ricardians from all over the north of England and Scotland announced that they would come and support the event. There was a last-minute hitch when the vicar arranged a funeral in the church at 11am – the exact time we had planned to plant the rose. Philippa's train tickets were already booked, and publicity posters had been printed. We put back the event to 12 noon and

managed to let everyone know in time. The day dawned dry and sunny.

Philippa arrived and our chair Marilyn showed her round Penrith Castle while some of us set up the library display with our own leaflets and Society literature. Others mustered in a nearby café.

The local paper sent a reporter who interviewed Philippa and then took lots of photographs. Marilyn welcomed everyone to Penrith, I explained Richard's connection with the town and the significance of the window, and then Philippa planted the rose.

There was quite a crowd! We also had a lot of interest in the display and people took leaflets. We then went to the Royal Hotel, which has recently changed its inn sign from the royal coat of arms to a picture of Richard. Another photo opportunity! We had a lovely buffet lunch and an opportunity to talk to Philippa about the Missing Princes Project. The rose has already produced a lot of blooms and looks to be flourishing in its new home. We have gained a new member as a result of the event and made a lot of new friends in the Society. The paper put us on the front page, and the article took the line that Penrith was missing a trick by not making the most of its connections with Richard.

It was a good day.

The Richard III Society was founded in 1924 as the Fellowship of the White Boar. Next year, 2024, we will celebrate 100 years. Here's what's planned so far.

The Anne Sutton Memorial Lecture

- The inaugural lecture will take place by Zoom in January - date to be advised.
- Dr Livia Visser-Fuchs will be the speaker and she will be talking about her long collaboration with Anne on the subject of Richard III.

The Branch & Group Day - 6 July

- The B&G community are already planning for the synchronised Day of Celebration on 6 July.
- There is a whole range of events being arranged, from simple local leafleting to online events, to the hire of a cinema to show *The Lost King* and host a Q&A session to sharing the celebrations with those at Middleham at the 2024 Middleham Festival.
- There are also Study Days on other dates being planned.

Bosworth

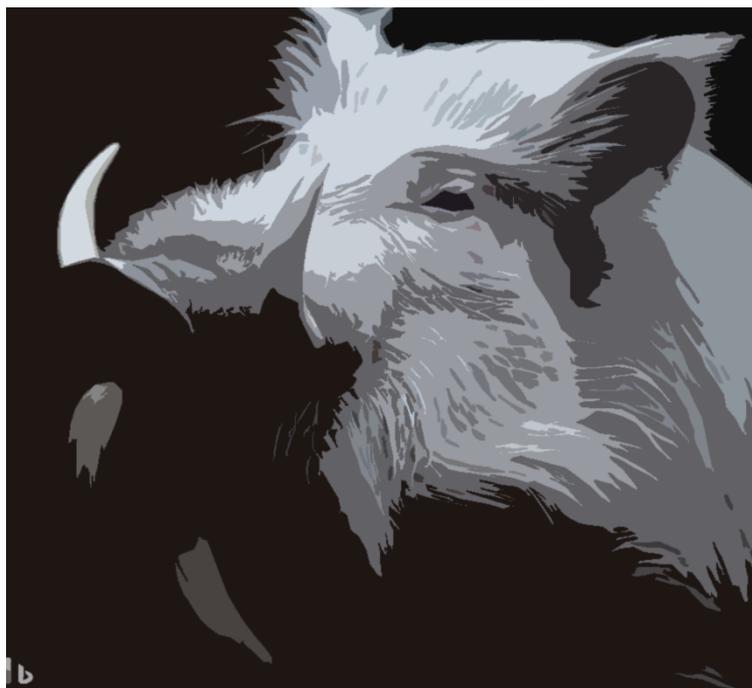
- The Society is planning a hospitality area for members at the Bosworth Medieval Festival as well as the usual stand with sale of merchandise and books.

AGM and Members' Weekend in York

- This will be a three-day event beginning on Friday 28 September and will include:
 - a formal dinner at the AGM venue, the Merchant Adventurers' Hall
 - an informal get together at a popular York venue
 - an excursion and lunch on the Sunday

In addition there will be the regular Society events:

- Triennial Conference and excursions
- Society presence at the Middleham Festival
- Society presence at the Tewkesbury Medieval Festival
- Annual Lunch and Carol Service at Fotheringhay.



A full calendar of events will be published in the December edition of the *Bulletin*.

The anniversary will also be celebrated through:

- Possible sponsorship at a prestigious medieval conference which will enhance the Society's position as a serious historical society.
- A Centenary edition of the *Bulletin* in September which will include an exclusive interview with the Society's Patron and profiles of the leading Ricardians over the past 100 years
- A special supplement in the *Bulletin* which will be a concise and comprehensive history of the Richard III Society from its founding in 1924 as the Fellowship of the White Boar to its centenary year in 2024.

Part of life's rich tapestry

By Edna Coles

The Devon & Cornwall branch has been lucky enough to enjoy a talk by one of its members, Rosemary Jessop.

Rosemary has been interested in history and British Kings and Queens since childhood and we have appreciated several presentations by her in the past. At this meeting Rosemary brought along a superb tapestry depicting British rulers which she has been working on since her teenage years.

Members present heard about the inspiration and the sheer hard work that has gone into the tapestry and were pleased to be able to inspect it at close quarters. Especially pleasing was the depiction of "Dickon the Good" ! Of course, with the sad death of Queen Elizabeth II Rosemary now has to add another monarch to her masterpiece. Here are some examples of her work.

Edna Coles is secretary of the Devon & Cornwall Branch



World renowned North Mercia Branch Ricardian Jack Clarke, who is responsible for the local book club group, sat down with intrepid reporter Annette Davis for an in-depth interview

How Irish Jack joined the team

A Good afternoon Jack

J How are ya?

A Do I detect an Irish accent there Jack?

J Born and bred! I lived there till I was about 12 months old – then I got ‘rescued’ and moved to England.

A Where do you live now?

J On the Welsh Marches - just inside Wales on the Shropshire/Cheshire border.

A How did you become a Ricardian?

J Actually I’m a lurcher! But I know what you mean. The house of York was always popular in Ireland and as you know Richard was descended from the de burgh family who were the Earls of Ulster – and their ancestor was Domnall mor ua Briain – the king of Thomand. So, I thought, as a proud Irish dog that I’d join the team! I love visiting battlefields and abbeys and castles. You can see for miles from the castle walls – very important for a sighthound like me. And as I’m a traditional hunting hound I do look good on a battlement!

A Your favourite castle?

J Ludlow – I’ve stayed in the apartments a few times- they give you a dog bowl with a crest on it and there is a great window seat. But dogs are not allowed on the furniture so I wouldn’t try it out – would I? Sonya, who was the custodian is my bff- even though she did capture me in the pub car park when I went on a solo tour of the town. I can be quite adventurous like that – I’m a bit of a free spirit!



Jack Clarke, left, was recently spotted by the paparazzi out and about with his friend the beautiful Portia

A What is your favourite food?

J Cake, cheese and cheesecake!

A Do you have a favourite tea room?

J The ‘cloister’ cafe at Worcester Cathedral. I recommend the carrot cake! my visit there is often referred to as ‘the great carrot cake theft of Worcester’. What actually happened? Well ‘recollections may vary...’!

A How does the job share with Bran work?

J It works well – she goes to meetings and sits quietly and behaves herself while people listen to the speaker. I do the book club and go to the pub.

A Well thank you for taking time in your busy schedule to talk to me.

J You’re welcome! did you bring any cake?



Mission Statement

'In the belief that many features of the traditional accounts of the character and career of Richard III are neither supported by sufficient evidence nor reasonably tenable, the Society aims to promote in every possible way research into the life and times of Richard III and to secure a reassessment of the material relating to this period and raise awareness of the role in history of this monarch.'