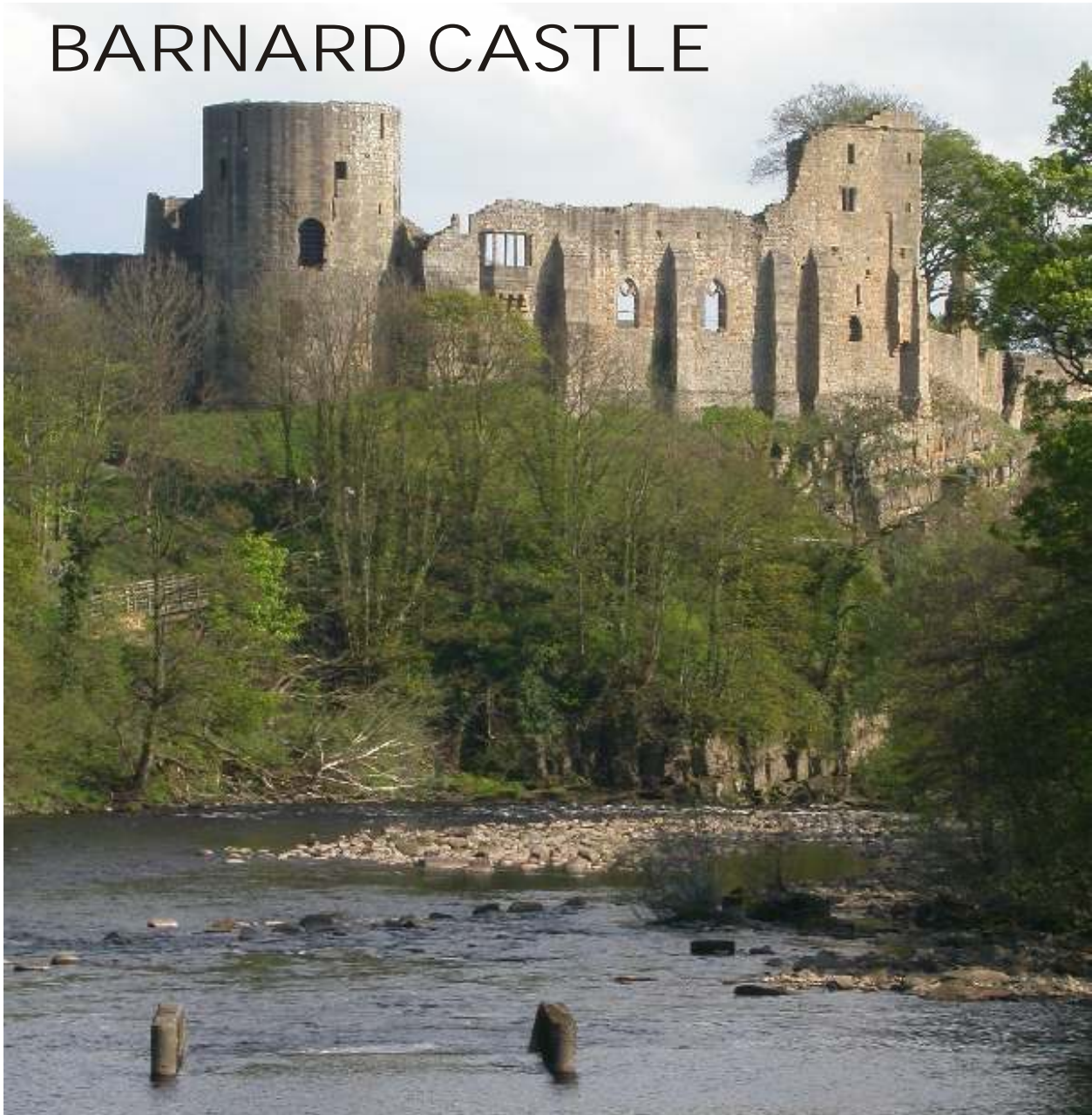


BARNARD CASTLE



*The Second Duke And
Duchess Of Buckingham*

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From the Chair

Huzzah, King Richard!

We are still several months out, but I am already getting excited about our upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM), Sept. 26-28 in Florida.

I am also quite encouraged by the strength and innovations in many of our chapters. While we try to get the word out about Good King Richard at the national level, the dedication witnessed at many Ricardian chapters is the real strength of our Society. To that end, I encourage each of you to seek out your local or regional Ricardian chapter and get involved. In some cases, chapters of the past folded as people moved away or the cares of everyday life took precedence over Ricardian participation. I can speak for the American Branch Executive Board in saying that we resolve to support local and regional efforts to re-plant those fallen and forgotten standards.

We continue to look for new ways to raise awareness about the wrongful attacks on the reputation of Ricardus Rex (and the Yorkists of old). If you have a great idea, please share it on the Richard III Society American Branch members-only email list. You can also read and discuss *other member's* great ideas! All you have to do is get a free Yahoo! ID and join the members-only Yahoo! group at the following web link:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/richard3/>



Loyaulte me lie,
Wayne

On The Cover

Barnard Castle, © Ben Gamble, licensed for reuse under Creative Common License. This view taken from the bridge over the Tees.

Standard of Henry Stafford: Heraldic Standard and badge of Sir Henry de Stafford, K.G., second son of Henry, second Duke of Buckingham (executed in 1483). It is charged, first, with a cross of St. George; then, on a field per fesse sable and gules (the colours of the Duke's livery), the White Swan of the De Bohuns, with the silver Stafford-knot badge, differenced with a Crescent gules for Cadency; the Motto is HVMBLE: ET: LOYAL; and the fringe, of the same colours as the field, componée sable and gules.

The Second Duke And Duchess Of Buckingham

Susan Higginbotham

In the fall of 1483, Henry Stafford, second Duke of Buckingham, rebelled against Richard III, breaking faith with a monarch whom he had helped to bring to power just months before. Much has been written about Henry's conduct during 1483, but comparatively little has been written about the rest of his life—and about his duchess, Katherine Woodville, sister to Queen Elizabeth Woodville.

Sadly, the household records that would give valuable insight into the lives and personalities of this couple—showing, for instance, what they spent their money on and with whom they associated—were destroyed in 1483 and 1485 by supporters of Richard III, either during the rebellion that bears Buckingham's name or in raids following the battle of Bosworth.¹ We are left largely with scattered records of contemporaries and chronicle evidence.

Born on September 4, 1455,² Henry Stafford was the oldest son of Humphrey Stafford and Margaret Beaufort (who is not to be confused with her better-known first cousin of the same name, mother to Henry Tudor). He signed himself "Harry," and that is what we shall call him here, to avoid confusion with the other Henrys who figure into this history. Harry had royal connections, being a descendant of Edward III through both Thomas of Woodstock and John of Gaunt (via John's legitimized children by Katherine Swynford). He also had sound Lancastrian ones. Both Harry's father and grandfather had been wounded fighting for that house at the first battle of St. Albans in 1455, and Harry's grandfather died guarding Henry VI's tent at Northampton in 1460. Harry's mother, Margaret, was a daughter of Edmund Beaufort, first Duke of Somerset, who was killed at St. Albans in 1455. Margaret's three brothers carried on the Lancastrian cause: Henry Beaufort, second Duke of Somerset, was executed by Yorkist forces after the battle of Hexham in 1464; Edmund Beaufort, the third duke, was executed after the battle of Tewkesbury; John Beaufort, the youngest brother, died in the battle of Tewkesbury.

Harry's father died of the plague in 1458,³ predeceasing his own father, the first Duke of Buckingham, also known as Humphrey Stafford. Harry inherited his grandfather's dukedom when the first duke was killed at Northampton on July 10, 1460. As Harry, not quite five, was a minor, he and his estates passed into the custody of his grandmother the Duchess of Buckingham. Anne Stafford, the duchess, was Edward IV's aunt, being an



older sister of the king's mother, Cecily, Duchess of York.

In February 1464, Edward IV purchased Harry's wardship and marriage from Anne Stafford. He then placed Harry in the custody of Anne, Duchess of Exeter, Edward IV's older sister.

Later that year, Edward IV secretly married Elizabeth Woodville, a widowed daughter of Richard Woodville and Jacquetta of Luxembourg, Duchess of Bedford. The duchess's marriage to a mere squire years before had produced a large brood of children, of which Katherine Woodville was probably the youngest. A post-mortem inquisition for her brother Richard in 1492 identifies her as "aged 34 and more," placing her birth year at around 1458.⁴

Edward IV announced his marriage to his council in September 1464, and Elizabeth Woodville was formally presented to the council and other worthies at Michaelmas (September 29). She was crowned on May 26, 1465.

Somewhere in this period, young Harry Stafford and Katherine Woodville were married. In 1483, Dominic Mancini, an observer of English affairs during this time, declared that Harry "had his own reasons for detesting the queen's kin; for, when he was younger, he had been forced to wed the queen's sister, whom he scorned to wed on account of her humble origin."⁵ Recently, historians have been less inclined to take this comment at face value, given the anti-Woodville propaganda that was being circulated by the Duke of Gloucester, the future Richard III, at the time.⁶

In fact, at nine years of age, Harry was likely to have taken his cue from his elders, who on the Stafford side at least appear to have been on cordial terms with the

Woodvilles and with the king. The dowager Duchess of Buckingham and Katherine's mother, the Duchess of Bedford, were old acquaintances, who had often been in the receipt of gifts from Henry VI's queen, Margaret of Anjou. They and their husbands attended Corpus Christi pageants in her company in 1457.⁷ In 1460, the two duchesses and Lady Scales were delegated by the citizens of London to negotiate with Margaret of Anjou. The dowager Duchess of Buckingham played a prominent role at Elizabeth Woodville's coronation, bearing the queen's train. In 1470, the duchess lent the queen money after Edward IV was forced to flee the country.⁸ Her second husband, Walter Blount, Lord Mountjoy, and her two surviving sons, Harry's uncles, were loyal to Edward IV in 1470–71. Thus, if the nine-year-old duke did resent his marriage at the time, his feelings do not seem to have been shared by his Stafford relations. The person who probably was upset about the marriage was Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, known as the "Kingmaker," who with the duke's marriage to Katherine lost an eminently suitable husband for one of his own two young daughters.⁹

The arrangements regarding Harry's wardship and marriage, in fact, made sound sense. Given Harry's Lancastrian connections (especially his Beaufort kin) and his wealth, Edward IV had every reason to want him to be reared by people Edward could trust unreservedly, like the king's sister and his queen. Marrying Harry to one of Warwick's daughters, moreover, would have joined the vast Stafford estates to the vast Warwick ones, allowing the earl to expand his influence even further at a time Edward IV was declaring his independence from Warwick.

In May 1465, the young duke and duchess participated in Elizabeth Woodville's coronation, where both were carried on the shoulders of squires. That they were married by then is evident from a contemporary account of the event, where Katherine is described as "the younger Duchess of Buckingham," and her prominent place in the procession, immediately behind the dowager Duchess of Buckingham, the Duchess of Suffolk (Edward IV's sister Elizabeth), Margaret of York (Edward IV's youngest, then unmarried sister), and the Duchess of Bedford.¹⁰ At the banquet afterward, the dowager Duchess of Buckingham and the new Duchess of Buckingham sat at the same table, near the newly created Knights of the Bath, among whom were Harry, Duke of Buckingham, and his younger brother, Humphrey.

Edward IV transferred custody of the Duke of Buckingham from the Duchess of Exeter to Elizabeth Woodville in August 1465, but as payments to Elizabeth

for the duke's maintenance were later made retroactive to Easter, he had probably been living in her household at least since then.¹¹ The queen was granted 500 marks per year from Harry's estates for the maintenance of him and his brother. Elizabeth's household accounts for 1466–67 show that three people were paid for their services to Katherine, who was being raised in the queen's household alongside her husband. The queen engaged a tutor, John Giles, to teach grammar to Henry and Humphrey. (Giles was evidently good at his task, for he later became a tutor to the Prince of Wales and his younger brother.)¹² Humphrey passes out of the records after this time, apparently having died young.

Despite the inquisition postmortem, the coronation description, and Elizabeth Woodville's household records, all of which indicate that Katherine was a child at the time of her marriage to Harry, a number of writers—especially Ricardian ones—maintain that she was a grown woman and cite this supposed age difference as a shocking example of Woodville greed and corruption.¹³ One Ricardian novel even depicts Katherine as a pedophile and an "aging slut," forcing the hapless twelve-year-old duke into her bed as a sex toy with the blessing of the evil Elizabeth Woodville. Harry is found in a state of shock by the upright Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who chivalrously rescues the lad from his wife's perverted clutches by whisking him off to Wales.¹⁴ (Of course, the ingrate Harry betrays Richard anyway.)

Back in the realm of reality, eleven-year-old Katherine Woodville's life took a terrifying turn in 1469, when the Kingmaker, acting in concert with Edward IV's younger brother, George, the Duke of Clarence, took advantage of unrest in the country to mount his own rebellion and to rid himself of his political enemies. Naming the Woodvilles and others as favorites who were corrupting the king, and reminding those who read his manifesto of the deposed rulers Edward II, Richard II, and Henry VI, Warwick gathered troops, some of which met the king's forces at Edgecote on July 26, 1469, defeating them. After the battle, William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke and one of Warwick's enemies, was beheaded. As John Gillingham points out, this execution was illegal, as Warwick still recognized Edward IV as king and Pembroke had merely been coming to his aid.¹⁵ Three days later, Edward IV himself was captured by Warwick's brother, George Neville, and taken to Warwick Castle, then to Middleham. Meanwhile, Warwick's men captured Katherine Woodville's father, Richard, and one of her older brothers, John. They were beheaded without trial on August 12, 1469. Like Pembroke, they were executed entirely illegally. To add to the misery of the Woodville family, one of Warwick's

The Second Duke and Duchess of Buckingham

followers accused Jacquetta, Duchess of Bedford, newly widowed and mourning the death of a son as well, of sorcery. (The duchess, however, fought the charges vigorously and was acquitted in early 1470 by a committee that included Harry's stepgrandfather, Walter Blount.)

Where the young Buckingham was during this period is unknown, though Elizabeth Woodville and her little daughters were in Norwich when her father and brother were killed, and Katherine may have accompanied the queen there.

Things were not working out for the Earl of Warwick as he had planned, however. His capture of the king had ushered in a period of lawlessness that Warwick could not contain with Edward IV in captivity. He was therefore forced to release the king, who entered London in grand state in October 1469. John Paston reported that "the Lordes Harry and John of Bokyngham" as well as Walter Blount were among his entourage. John would have been John Stafford, a younger son of the first Duke of Buckingham. "Harry" may refer to the fourteen-year-old Duke of Buckingham, though some believe it refers to his uncle Henry Stafford, brother of John Stafford.¹⁶

Harry spent the Christmas of 1469 as a guest of his uncle Henry and his aunt Margaret Beaufort at Guildford.¹⁷ Meanwhile, the freed Edward IV and Warwick patched things up, but only temporarily. In September 1470, Edward IV fled the country, and Henry VI was nominally on the throne, controlled by Warwick. With Elizabeth Woodville and her children in sanctuary, custody of Harry was transferred to his grandmother and to his stepgrandfather, Walter Blount.¹⁸

During Lent of 1471, Warwick took the precaution of arresting a number of suspected Yorkist sympathizers, including, apparently, Harry, whose stepgrandfather and uncle John were also arrested.¹⁹ Some of these men were kept in the Tower; when Edward IV arrived in London on April 11, 1471, they overpowered their captors and went out to join his forces. Three days later, Edward IV defeated Warwick's army at the Battle of Barnet, where Warwick was killed.

Nothing indicates whether Harry, not yet sixteen, fought at Barnet or at the battle at Tewkesbury that followed. He certainly must have been with the king's army, for when the triumphant Edward IV returned to London in May 1471, the duke was among those who accompanied him.²⁰ The experience must have been an unsettling one for Harry, whose family had become hopelessly split between York and Lancaster: While the family of Harry's father supported Edward IV, Harry's maternal uncle, Edmund, third Duke of Somerset, led Margaret of Anjou's forces at Tewkesbury and was

executed after the battle. Harry's other maternal uncle, John Beaufort, perished in the battle, also fighting for the house of Lancaster. One wonders what the youthful duke thought of the destruction of his mother's brothers at Yorkist hands and whether this figured into his actions in 1483.

Not surprisingly, due to her age and gender, Katherine Woodville's whereabouts during this time are unrecorded. She is not mentioned specifically as being with her sister the queen in sanctuary, so perhaps she was living with her husband's grandmother.

In January 1473, Harry, only seventeen, was allowed to come into his inheritance, one of the richest in England, although Harry would have to wait a number of years to enjoy all of it. Most of the land he received then was in Wales, as his grandmother, who lived until 1480, held many of his English estates in dower; other lands had been set aside to pay the dower of his aunt, a debt owing from Henry's grandfather's day.²¹ He was made a Knight of the Garter in 1474.

Despite these marks of favor, the role the adult Harry



Brecon Castle, Wales

would play in Edward IV's court would be almost entirely ceremonial. He and his wife were present at the grand events of Edward IV's reign, such as the welcoming of Louis of Gruthuyse to England in 1472 and the marriage of Edward IV's younger son, the Duke of York, to little Anne Mowbray in 1478. He enjoyed no influence at court, however. He accompanied Edward to France in 1475, when the anticlimactic Treaty of Picquigny was signed, but is recorded as having gone home prematurely, for unknown reasons.²² Michael Jones has speculated that he may have shared the Duke of Gloucester's distaste for the treaty and that he remonstrated with Edward IV about it, thereby consigning himself to oblivion for the rest of that king's reign.²³

Other explanations for Edward IV's apparently aloof behavior toward Buckingham abound. Some argue that Buckingham was squeezed out by the Woodvilles, while others suggest that Edward IV disliked him personally, regarded him as unstable or untrustworthy or incompetent, or distrusted him because of his Lancastrian connections or because of his royal ancestry. For his own part, Buckingham must have bitterly resented Edward IV's refusal to hand over his share of the Bohun inheritance, to which Buckingham had a claim after the deaths of Henry VI and Edward of Lancaster in 1471. As Carole Rawcliffe points out, doing so would have not only cost Edward IV over a thousand pounds per year in lost income but would have emphasized Buckingham's claim to the throne through the house of Lancaster.²⁴ In this respect, it probably did not help that Buckingham in 1474 had sought and received permission to use the arms of his ancestor Thomas of Woodstock.²⁵

In 1478, Buckingham's relations with the crown took a brief upswing. Buckingham was made high steward of England for the purpose of pronouncing a death sentence upon Edward IV's troublesome brother, George, Duke of Clarence. That same year, Edward IV granted him the manor of Ebbw and the lordship of Cantref Mawr.

Both Harry and his duchess had attended the wedding of Richard, Duke of York, to Anne Mowbray in January 1478, with the Duke of Buckingham joining the Duke of Gloucester in leading the small bride to the wedding banquet. Katherine was heavily pregnant at the time, for on February 3, 1478, she gave birth to the couple's first son, Edward—just a few days before the Duke of Buckingham sentenced Clarence to death. Edward IV served as godfather to Edward and gave a gold cup for the occasion.

The couple later had two other sons, Henry and Humphrey; they also had two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne. All but Humphrey, who apparently died in early childhood, married and survived into Henry VIII's reign, though that king would be fatal to Edward, the third Duke of Buckingham, who was executed in 1521 on dubious grounds.²⁶

In August 1478, William Paston reported that the Duke of Buckingham was making a pilgrimage to Walsingham and would be visiting his "sister" Lady Knyvet at Bokenham (actually his paternal aunt, who had married William Knyvet after her first marriage was dissolved). Walsingham had strong associations with childbearing; perhaps Buckingham was giving thanks for the birth of his first son.

Buckingham dropped back into obscurity after that, not to emerge until 1483, the last and the most crucial

year of Harry's life. The turning point was the death of Edward IV, following which Harry and Richard, Duke of Gloucester banded together at Northampton to seize Anthony Woodville, Earl Rivers, to whose care Edward IV had entrusted the Prince of Wales, the uncrowned Edward V.

Richard and Harry, who was nearly three years younger than the Duke of Gloucester, were cousins. Cecily, Duchess of York, Richard's mother, was a younger sister of Anne Stafford, Harry's grandmother, and it was into Anne's care that Cecily and her three youngest children had been placed by Henry VI in 1459. By that time, Harry's father had died, leaving him the heir to the Buckingham dukedom, so he may have been living with his grandparents as well. It is quite possible, then, that the four-year-old Harry met the seven-year-old Richard at that time. Their paths had certainly crossed since then, as when they both accompanied the victorious Edward IV into London in 1471 and attended the marriage of Richard, Duke of York, in 1478, but how close they were before 1483 is unknown. Richard had spent most of his time in the North, Harry probably on his great estates in Wales and its borders.

Buckingham's motives for joining together with Richard are unknown. As noted earlier, Buckingham was said by Mancini to have detested the Woodvilles because of his "forced" marriage to one, but Mancini is demonstrably wrong on other points (for instance, his claim that Richard shunned the court after the death of George) and may well be wrong on this one, perhaps influenced by the anti-Woodville propaganda being circulated at the time. D. E. Lowe has noted that Buckingham served as a feoffee of Anthony Woodville, and Buckingham conveyed estates in 1481 to feoffees with strong ties to Anthony.²⁷ Certainly Anthony, not known to be credulous or reckless, did not take any precautions when he met with his two brothers-in-law, as he surely would have had he regarded either man as being hostile toward him. It seems more likely that Buckingham, seeing at last the chance to gain power and the Bohun inheritance, sprang at the opportunity offered him by Richard. Whether Richard's subsequent actions were at the urging of Buckingham, or whether Buckingham followed Richard's lead, can only be guessed. It seems unlikely, however, that Richard, three years Buckingham's senior and far more experienced militarily and administratively, would have allowed himself to be manipulated by Harry.

The succeeding events are too well known to require recounting in detail.²⁸ Anthony Woodville, Richard Grey (the queen's second son by her first husband), and Thomas Vaughan (Edward V's chamberlain since his infancy), were seized and arrested. Edward V was taken to

London by his uncles Gloucester and Buckingham, who lodged him in suitably royal quarters in the Tower at Buckingham's suggestion. On June 13, 1483, William Hastings, Edward IV's closest friend, was seized at a council meeting and executed without trial on the pretext that he had been plotting against Richard. Elizabeth Woodville, who had fled to Westminster sanctuary upon hearing of the arrest of her brother and her son, was persuaded on June 16 to hand over her youngest boy, Richard, Duke of York, to Gloucester. Buckingham met the boy at Westminster Hall, after which he was greeted by Gloucester and escorted to join his brother in the Tower. The next day, it was announced that the coronation had been postponed until November.

Beginning June 22, sermons were preached to the effect that Edward IV's marriage to Elizabeth Woodville was invalid and their children therefore illegitimate based on a supposed precontract between Edward IV and one Eleanor Butler—both parties being conveniently dead. Buckingham and Richard were present at one such sermon, preached by Dr. Ralph Shaw.

Buckingham appeared at the Guildhall on June 24, where he made a speech, attended by the mayor and numerous other prominent citizens, urging that Richard be crowned king. Though the speech was "so well and eloquently uttered and with so angelic a countenance, and every pause and time was well ordered, that such as heard him marveled and said that never before that day had they heard any man, learned or unlearned, make such oration,"²⁹ the response was not enthusiastic.

The next day, Rivers, Grey, and Vaughan were executed at Pontefract. Back in London, on June 26, a petition formally setting out Richard's title to the throne was presented to Richard at Baynards Castle. Richard agreed to take the throne.

Buckingham had the main part in organizing the coronation, held on July 6. He bore Richard's train in the procession to and from Westminster Abbey, gave the king a pall and a pound of gold at the altar, and helped him remove his ceremonial robes and replace them with purple robes. His stepfather, Richard Darell, his cousin Edward Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire, and his uncle by marriage, William Knyvet, also attended.³⁰ One family member, however, was significantly absent: Katherine Woodville, whose brother Anthony and nephew Richard Grey had been executed and whose sister the queen was still in sanctuary. Whether Katherine was purposely excluded from the coronation or chose herself to avoid it is unknown.

Richard III richly rewarded Buckingham for his kingmaking services. Having held no position of importance during Edward IV's reign, he now was created chief

justice and chamberlain of north and south Wales for life. He was also made constable, a hereditary Bohun office, and chamberlain—and he was granted the coveted Bohun estates, with a promise that the grant would be confirmed at the next Parliament.

Meanwhile, Richard III's nephews had disappeared from public view, never to be seen again. Rumors quickly spread that they had been murdered, with both Richard III and Buckingham being named as the killers by contemporary sources. Buckingham has become the favorite suspect of those who wish to exonerate Richard from any guilt in the matter, but the case against him can be proven no more than that against Richard.

Just weeks after Richard's coronation, plans were made to rescue Edward IV's sons from the Tower by starting fires in the city of London. The plan failed, and four men were executed,³¹ but the country was at last emerging from the stupor into which it had been plunged by the events of June. Another scheme arose, this time to take Elizabeth Woodville's daughters out of sanctuary and send them abroad. Richard thwarted it by posting an armed guard around Westminster Abbey. By August, however, the conspiracy—involving mostly gentry who had been loyal to Edward IV—was spreading through the south. As rumors began that the princes in the Tower were dead, Elizabeth Woodville, her sons Lionel and Richard, Buckingham's relation Margaret Beaufort, Buckingham's prisoner Bishop Morton, and Buckingham himself became involved. According to the Croyland Chronicler, in October 1483, Buckingham, having joined the rebels, invited Margaret Beaufort's son, Henry Tudor, living in exile abroad, to come to England and to assume the throne.³² (Richard's act of attainder is less specific. It states only that the rebels planned to depose and kill Richard, not that Tudor was the intended replacement—presumably a notion Richard did not wish to implant in his subjects' heads.³³)

Buckingham's motives for joining the rebellion after receiving so much from Richard remain a mystery. Some have suggested that he aimed at the crown himself (and killed the princes as a step toward that ultimate goal), others that he was manipulated by Bishop Morton and/or Margaret Beaufort, still others that he believed that Richard's reign was doomed and wanted to shield himself from reprisals by joining the rebels. Yet others believe that he was a latent Lancastrian who finally had the chance to show his true colors. The notion that he was appalled by Richard's killing of the princes has been discounted by historians as of late, but it should not be rejected out of hand (assuming, of course, that Richard did indeed kill them). Buckingham may not have had difficulty condoning the death of grown men, but

infanticide may have been an entirely different thing to him. Horror and the fear that he had imperiled his immortal soul by his complicity with Richard could explain his willingness to risk all of his long-coveted gains for an uncertain future with an obscure and untried exile. The Croyland Chronicler's statement that Buckingham was "repentant of what had been done"³⁴ may well be the truth.

Whatever Buckingham's motives, his own part in the rebellion failed miserably, due to Richard's swift response, Buckingham's inability to inspire loyalty in his Welsh tenants, and horrendous rains and flooding that hampered his forces' passage. Leaving his daughters at his castle of Brecon in Wales, he went with his wife and sons to Weobley in Herefordshire, where Sir Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrers had a home. Lord Ferrers' role in this episode is a mystery. He was not named as being a rebel, and later fought and died for Richard III at Bosworth, but he had sheltered the young Henry Tudor in 1470 when the boy was in the care of Anne, Countess of Pembroke, Walter's sister. Ferrers had also controlled Buckingham's lordships of Brecon, Hay, and Huntington while Buckingham was a minor. It was presumably these connections that led Buckingham to him. Perhaps Ferrers was an unwilling or absent host; perhaps the presence of the duchess and the couple's small sons allowed him to tell Richard later that he had acted merely out of consideration for their plight.

Katherine's presence at Weobley with her husband and sons raises its own questions. If she really were the despised wife that Mancini describes, would Harry have brought her along for his last, doomed stand before he took to flight? Katherine's brothers Lionel and Richard had also joined the rebellion; perhaps Katherine played a role in contacting them once Harry decided to throw his lot in with the rebels.

After spending a week speaking to the local men, presumably in a fruitless attempt to gain support, Buckingham—now with a reward of a thousand pounds on his head—disguised himself and fled, leaving what was left of his army behind. Before this, according to a memoir by a family retainer,³⁵ he entrusted his heir, five-year-old Edward Stafford, to Richard Delabeare to keep until he sent for the boy. With them to Kynardsley went William Knyvet, who was married to Buckingham's aunt and who had also served as one of Buckingham's councilors. Buckingham had taken the precaution of having a frieze coat—a coat of a coarse cloth that would not ordinarily have been suitable for a duke's child—made for his son. While the duke and duchess and their remaining son, Henry, were still at Weobley, members of the Vaughan family (not to be

confused with the Vaughan who had died at Pontefract) seized Brecon Castle, looting its contents and doing historians a great disservice by destroying many of the Stafford records. Buckingham's young daughters and their ladies were taken to Tretower, the Vaughans' home.

The fleeing duke sought shelter at the home of a retainer, Ralph Bannister, in Wem. Either out of fear or out of greed for the price on Buckingham's head, Bannister betrayed Buckingham and was later rewarded by Richard III with a manor.

Buckingham was taken to Shrewsbury, where on October 31 he was handed over to the ubiquitous James Tyrrell and to Christopher Wellesbourne, who took him to Salisbury. In Salisbury, his pleas for an audience with Richard III were refused, leaving what he meant to say or do had he been admitted to the king's presence as yet another mystery to ponder. Buckingham's son Edward is said to have claimed that his father carried a dagger up his sleeve with which he would have stabbed Richard after kneeling before him. The supposed remark, however, was attributed to Edward by a hostile witness in connection with Edward's own trial for treason in Henry VIII's time, as an illustration of Edward's own supposed murderous intentions toward Henry VIII,³⁶ and for that reason should be viewed with a certain amount of skepticism.

On November 2, 1483, All Saints' Day, Buckingham was beheaded in Salisbury marketplace. He had apparently been allowed by his captors to make a will, as both a 1485 Act of Parliament assigning his widow a jointure and William Catesby's testament refer to a will by Buckingham.

Over the years, several sites have been put forth as a final resting place for the late duke. The first was the Church of St. Peter in Britford, just outside of Salisbury. In 1836 in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, R. Colt Hoare wrote that the tomb bore the shield of Stafford and Rivers.³⁷ He added,

I am inclined to suppose that the figures on the base of the tomb allude to a melancholy event which took place at Salisbury. There are six niches, five of which contain male and female figures; the first is vacant, which I think was designed for the unfortunate Duke. I consider the female figure in the second niche, having a crown on her head, as representing the Duchess, his wife. The next figure is evidently an ecclesiastic or bishop deploring the unfortunate fate of the Duke; and at this period Widvile, brother of the Duchess, was bishop of the see. The fourth figure represents a female crowned like the second, holding a sword in one hand, and in the other a cap or bonnet, probably that of the Duke.

The fifth figure represents the executioner with the sword in his hand.

The last figure represent [sic] a female holding up her hand in apparent grief, and with a child in her arms, as alluding to one of the unfortunate Duke's offspring.

One D.H., however, also writing in *The Gentleman's Magazine* in 1836, would have none of this. Dissenting in a gentlemanly manner (as one might expect), he wrote that the figures probably represented saints, not family members of Buckingham, and he doubted that the shields represented the House of Stafford. Later writers have suggested that the Britford tomb might have been erected in Buckingham's memory, but does not contain his remains.

The picture grew murkier in 1838, when according to a report in the *Salopian Journal*, during renovations at Salisbury's Saracen's Head Inn, a skeleton was found beneath the flooring, missing its head and right arm. The skeleton underwent an extremely unscientific examination by the locals, with the landlord measuring a rib against his own and concluding that the deceased was of "large dimensions," a maidservant "laying irreverent hands upon the neck-bones," and another person "seiz[ing] . . . that honoured left leg, once encompassed with the glittering insignia of the most noble Order of the Garter." Under the assumption that the skeleton belonged to a long-ago murder victim, the workers knocked the fragile bones about so that they merged into the surrounding clay. A few 19th-century antiquarians suggested that this was Buckingham's skeleton; they noted that the Saracen's Head Inn stood on the site of the Blue Boar Inn, the yard of which is given by some sources as the site for Buckingham's execution. It is possible that Richard III, furious at Buckingham's betrayal, might have ordered that his erstwhile ally be buried ignominiously instead of in consecrated ground, but how to explain the missing right arm?³⁸

Finally, the *Chronicle of the Grey Friars of London* states, "Thys yere the duke of Buckyngham was be-heddyd at Salsbery, and is burryd at the Gray freres [in Salisbury]." ³⁹ As noted in a footnote by John Gough Nichols, this is probably the most logical resting place for Buckingham. It was nearby, and as Richard III had afforded other executed opponents of his, notably William Hastings, honorable burial, he probably did so with Buckingham as well.⁴⁰

With Buckingham dead, a search began for his wife and sons. Search parties failed to find young Edward, whose caretakers moved him from place to place and dressed him as a little gentlewoman (complete with shaven forehead) to avoid detection. Katherine and her other son, Henry, were found at Weobley by

Wellesbourne, who with the brother of John Huddleston, probably Richard Huddleston (married to Queen Anne's half-sister, an out-of-wedlock child of the Earl of Warwick), took the duchess to the king in London.

Katherine's status after she was brought to Richard III is unclear. Some writers have claimed that she was allowed to join her sister Elizabeth in sanctuary, but I have not found their source for this statement; as Richard III was trying to get Elizabeth out of sanctuary, it seems unlikely that he would have let yet another Woodville in. On December 19, 1483, however, Richard III did issue an order allowing the duchess to convey her children and servants from Wales to "these parts," meaning London, from where the order was issued.⁴¹ Whether Katherine was staying on her own in London at the time or was living as a prisoner or under close supervision is unknown. Presumably the youthful fugitive Edward Stafford was included in this order and was brought out of hiding to join his mother and siblings.

By April 1484, Richard III had granted Katherine an annuity of 200 marks to be paid to her out of the issues of Tonbridge.⁴² This has been often cited as an instance of Richard's selfless generosity,⁴³ but it should be noted that a widow of an attainted traitor was legally entitled to receive any jointure that had been set for her. In an act passed during Henry VII's first Parliament, it is indicated that Buckingham in his will had set Katherine's jointure at 1,000 marks. If this was the case, Richard III ignored Katherine's rights to jointure, and his grant to her should be viewed in that light instead of simply as an instance of disinterested benevolence.

Back in March, Elizabeth Woodville had agreed to leave sanctuary and had been given an annuity of 700 marks. She seems to have been placed under the supervision of John Nesfield, who had previously been guarding her in sanctuary.⁴⁴ Perhaps Katherine and her children were similarly living under the watchful eye of a royal official.

Wherever her living quarters, Katherine now faced the problem of raising four children on her small annuity—small, at least, for the widow of one of the richest landholders in England who had hitherto wanted for nothing. With the prospect of Richard III sitting on the throne for years to come, she must have wondered how she was going to provide for her landless sons' futures and find appropriate husbands for her daughters. Katherine may have appealed to William Catesby, Richard III's royal councilor and a man who had served Buckingham as well. Richard III had granted Catesby and others a number of manors out of which to pay the duke's debts. Catesby seems to have been derelict in discharging his responsibility, however, for in his will, made

as he was facing execution after Bosworth, he left Katherine 100 pounds “to help herr children and that she will se my lordes dettes paid and his will executed. And In especialle in suche lond as shold be amortesid to the hous of Plasshe.”⁴⁵ Pleshey College had received gifts from Buckingham’s forbears; presumably Buckingham had remembered the institution in his will.

As it was, Katherine’s financial worries ended in 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth. After Henry VII took the throne, he reversed Buckingham’s attainder and assigned Katherine jointure. Probably the generous treatment accorded Katherine—her lands more than satisfied the amount of her jointure⁴⁶—was due to Henry’s desire to benefit his uncle, Jasper Tudor. The latter, newly created Duke of Bedford, married Katherine before November 7, 1485. In his middle fifties, he had never been married previously. Before Henry VII’s coronation, seven-year-old Edward Stafford, now the third Duke of Buckingham, was made a Knight of the Bath. With Edward restored to his family’s estates, his wardship had become a very desirable one. It was given to Henry VII’s mother, Margaret Beaufort, and he and his brother grew up in her household.

As Duchess of Bedford—the title her mother had held—Katherine was prominent in the ceremonies surrounding the coronation of her niece, Elizabeth of York, in 1487. She and several other ladies, carried in two chairs, followed the queen as she processed to Westminster the day before her coronation, and at breakfast the day after, Katherine sat on the left of the queen, with Margaret Beaufort on the right.⁴⁷ At the christening of Henry and Elizabeth’s first daughter, Margaret, Katherine carried the train of the baby’s mantle, assisted by Lord Strange.⁴⁸ She is not mentioned by name as attending her sister Elizabeth Woodville’s funeral, though one of Katherine’s daughters was present.⁴⁹ Perhaps the timing of the queen’s funeral, held a few days after her death on June 8, 1492, allowed Katherine too little time to receive the news and to travel to Windsor for the ceremony. Katherine is said to have spent most of her time at Thornbury, a manor in Gloucestershire on which Edward Stafford later lavished his attention and money.⁵⁰

On December 21, 1495, Jasper Tudor died, aged about sixty-four. Katherine, only about thirty-seven, very hastily married Richard Wingfield, a man twelve years her junior, without a royal license. Part of a prosperous but very large Suffolk gentry family that had had close ties to Edward IV, Richard, the eleventh of twelve sons, would go on to have a distinguished diplomatic career in Henry VIII’s service, but at the time he must have had few material resources. (Perhaps persuading the rich duchess to the marriage, which took place

before February 24, 1496, was an early example of Richard’s diplomatic skills—or sex appeal.) Henry VII fined the couple two thousand pounds for their presumption, although it was ultimately Katherine’s son Edward who bore the burden of paying the fine. Katherine would have probably known Richard for some time, as there were already ties between the Wingfields and the Woodvilles: Katherine’s widowed sister Anne had married Edward Wingfield, a brother of Richard, while Richard’s mother was connected to Mary FitzLewis, Anthony Woodville’s second wife. Two of Richard’s brothers, and perhaps Richard himself, had served in Katherine’s household,⁵¹ and some of Richard’s older brothers had rebelled against Richard in 1483 and fought for Henry VII at Bosworth.

Katherine died on May 18, 1497, barely a year after her third marriage, having had no surviving children by Wingfield (or by Jasper Tudor). Richard Wingfield remarried, but in his will in 1525 requested that masses be said for Katherine’s soul as well as for those of other deceased family members and friends. Her burial place is unknown.

In 1920, a Book of Hours was sold at auction by Sotheby’s. Inscribed “M. Richard Wingfield,” it had belonged to the first Duchess of Buckingham and had apparently passed from her to her grandson Harry to Katherine to her Wingfield in-laws.⁵²

Of the many children born to Richard Woodville and Jacquetta of Luxembourg, Katherine was the last surviving. Through her sister’s marriage and through her own, she had achieved high estate, enjoyed great wealth, and experienced the tremendous tragedy so typical of the great ladies of her age. In her lifetime of less than forty years, her father, her brothers Anthony and John, her nephew Richard Grey, and her husband Harry Buckingham had lost their heads. Fortunately, she did not live long enough to witness the beheading of her eldest son by Henry VIII in 1521.

References

1. Rawcliffe, *The Staffords*, p. 2.
2. Harris, p. 250 n. 94.
3. Rawcliffe, *The Staffords*, p. 27. He is often reported to have died at the first battle of St. Albans three years before, but he was only “greatly hurt.” James Gairdner, ed., *The Paston Letters, A.D. 1422-1509*, p. 29–30.
4. Calendar of Inquisitions Post-Mortem, Henry VII, no. 283, “Richard, Earl of Rivers.” Special thanks are due to Society Nonfiction Librarian Brad Verity for his detailed reply to my inquiry regarding genealogical information about the Woodville siblings.
5. Dockray, p. 43.

6. E.g., Lander, p. 114 n. 111; Rawcliffe, *The Staffords*, p. 28. As Lander also points out, the word “forced” is misleading: “His marriage had been disposed of like that of any other child of the feudal classes whether in wardship or not.”
7. Smith, p. 47.
8. Laynesmith, p. 211,
9. Harris, p. 20
10. Smith, p. 16.
11. Okerlund, p. 71.
12. Myers, pp. 471–72, 475. Thanks to Society member Kate Skegg for her assistance in Latin translation.
13. E.g., Geoffrey Richardson, “The Gullible Duke of Buckingham,” *Ricardian Register* (Summer 2003), p. 15, describes Katherine as “much older” than Harry. Roxane Murph in her introduction to *Richard III: The Making of a Legend*, Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1977, reproduced on the Richard III Society’s American Branch website, states that Harry was “a dozen or more years [Katherine’s] junior.”
14. Mary Dodgen Few, *Under the White Boar* (Atlanta, Droke House, 1971), p. 55–57.
15. Gillingham, p. 164.
16. Kleineke, p. 79 & n. 89.
17. Jones and Underwood, p. 140.
18. Rawcliffe, p. 122 n. 57.
19. Kleineke, p. 79 & n. 89.
20. Hammond, p. 111.
21. Rawcliffe, *The Staffords*, pp. 125–26.
22. Barnard, p. 14.
23. Jones, p. 98.
24. Rawcliffe, *The Staffords*, pp. 30–31.
25. Harris, p. 21.
26. Henry, later created Earl of Wiltshire, died of natural causes in 1523, having survived a couple of close calls with Henry VIII. Elizabeth and Anne served as attendants to Catherine of Aragon, becoming involved in a court scandal in 1510 when William Compton, one of Henry VIII’s favorite courtiers, made advances to Anne, inciting the rage of Anne’s hotheaded brother Edward and leading to a testy exchange of words between him and the king.
27. Lowe, pp. 571–72.
28. I follow the timeline of events detailed by Sutton and Hammond.
29. Dockray, p. 63.
30. Sutton and Hammond, pp. 270–74, 332, 364, 397.
31. Horrox, p. 149.
32. Dockray, p. 86–87.
33. Hammond and Sutton, p. 162.
34. Dockray, p. 86.
35. A transcription of the memoir, which was written for Harry’s son Edward and was found among Stafford family papers at Thornbury, appears in Farrar and Sutton.
36. Harris, p. 183.
37. Gomme, pp. 215–16
38. Bate, pp. 56–58. Gill, while noting the competing sites for Buckingham’s burial, writes that the skeleton “is stuff for the imagination” and suggests that Richard might have taken out his frustration by having the right arm severed (p. 68).
39. Nichols, pp. 23–24.
40. Debenhams department store in Salisbury, which Buckingham’s ghost is said to haunt, marks the site of Harry’s execution with a plaque.
41. Horrox and Hammond (*Harleian 433*), p. 63. Farrar and Sutton suggest that the children were taken into Richard III’s or his queen’s household, but the authors appear to have been unaware of the order allowing Katherine’s servants and children to be brought to her in London.
42. Horrox and Hammond (*Harleian 433*, pp. 130, 213).
43. For example, Paul Murray Kendall in *Richard the Third* (New York: Norton, 1983), p. 382.
44. Okerlund, p. 239; Hampton, p. 277.
45. Williams, p. 49; Roskell, p. 172.
46. Rawcliffe, *The Staffords*, p. 127.
47. Nicolas, pp. lxxiii, lxxv.
48. Green, p. 52.
49. Okerlund, p. 258.
51. Davies, “Stafford, Henry.”
52. Davies, “Stafford, Henry.”
53. Wingfield, p. 250.

Sources:

- David Baldwin, *Elizabeth Woodville: Mother of the Princes in the Tower*. Gloucestershire: Sutton, 2004.
- Francis Pierrepont Barnard, *Edward IV’s French Expedition of 1475: The*

About the Author

Susan Higginbotham works as an editor for a legal publisher and has published two historical novels set in the fourteenth century: *The Traitor’s Wife: A Novel of the Reign of Edward II* and *Hugh and Bess: A Love Story*. She is currently working on a novel set during the Wars of the Roses. Visit her at <http://www.susanhigginbotham.com>.

A Tall Story

Marion Davis

Once upon a time Sir Robert Brakenbury had a priest. It was no ordinary priest. When it heard of the little princes' dolorous doom, it grabbed its trusty, never rusty, shovel. Snapping its fingers it vanished from sight, sailed through the air, and landed precisely where the princes were secretly buried.

Everyone in the castle—er, Tower—fell into a deep sleep.

Brakenbury's intrepid priest dug up 1,000,000,000 cubic yards plus .000000001 cubic inches of earth with a flick of its wrist. Gently it lifted the pitiful corpses from their 10-foot-deep grave. Gravely it refilled the pit. Swiftly it carried its lamentable burden to a secret burial place fit for the sons of kings.

Grimly it dug a new grave and reburied the princes, displacing 1,000,000,000 cubic yards plus .000000001 cubic inches of earth. Then it mounted its trusty shovel and returned to the world beyond the seven mountains and seven seas.

When the cock crowed, everyone in the Tower woke up. Nobody noticed 2,000,000,000 cubic yards plus .000000002 cubic inches of disturbed earth.

Nobody missed Brakenbury's priest.

Only Sir Thomas More was immune to the priest's spell.

In Good King Charles' golden days, officials misinterpreted the chest of bones dug up during a Tower renovation project.

Horace Walpole, blinded to the significance of Brakenbury's priest, didn't mention it in his best-seller, *Historic Doubts on the Life and Reign of King Richard III*. (No doubt, Alison Weir was compelled to cover-up the priest's significance in "The Princes in the Tower.")

Today the priest's spell still blinds many to the wild improbabilities of the Tudor version of events.

But the Fat Lady is still sleeping, and the story's not over 'til the Fat Lady sings!



From the Newsletter of the Mid Anglia Group

BEARDS AGAIN!

— or at least, very flourishing moustaches!

This interesting 'portrait' of Richard III (on the left — just in case you didn't immediately recognize him) was published in 1547, by a Swiss artist with the unpromising name of Johannes Stumpf. Richard appears to be about to load his golden sceptre and fire it from his longbow at Henry VII (who has unwisely turned his back, and who is depicted — also in very heavy disguise — on the right).



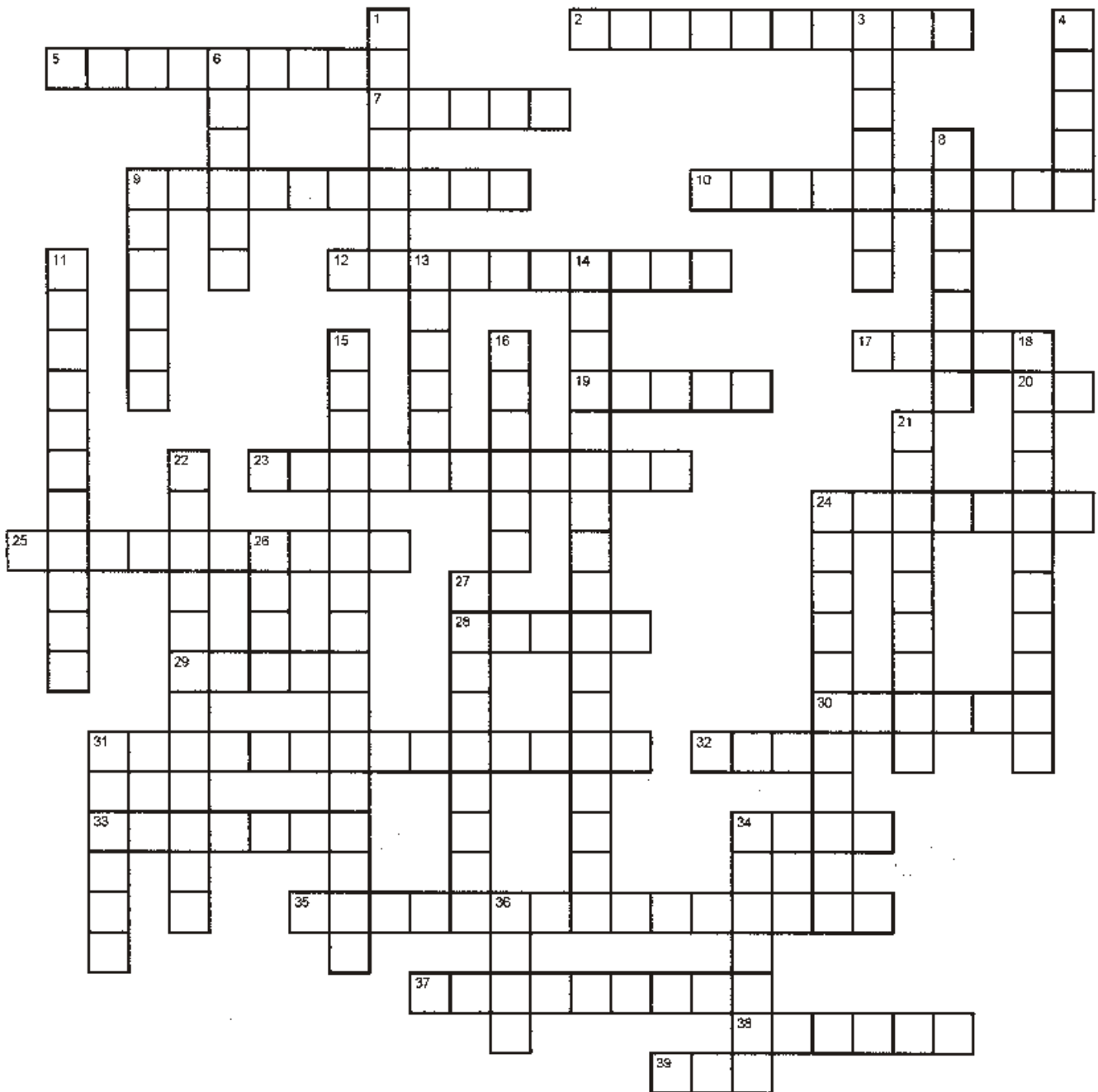
REPUTATIONS

Compare him [Richard III] now, judicall reader, impartially with other Princes. Judge truly of all their actions, their forme of government, their lawes and ordinances, the upholders, the streinth, the sinews of government, and thou shalt finde him as inocent of cruelty, extortion and tirranye as the moste, as wise, politicke and valiant as aney. If soe, censure his actions, his ordinances accordinge to their desertes, and this my Encomium as a charitable wellwisher to an opressed 85 defamed kinge.

The above (with punctuation slightly modernised) is the concluding paragraph of Sir William Cornwallis the Younger, *Encomium of Richard III* written circa 1580. The *Encomium* is the earliest known defence of Richard. It is thought to have been written as a response to the then still extant account by Cardinal Morton, to which Cornwallis probably had access through his connections with the family of Sir Thomas More.

HERALDRY

The Ricardian Puzzlers are Charlie Jordan, Lorraine Pickering, Marion Davis, and Nancy Northcott. The Ricardian crossword puzzles are intended as a fun method of learning about Richard and his life and times. Each puzzle will have a theme and clues are drawn from widely available sources. Suggestions are welcomed; please send comments to Charlie at charlie.jordan@earthlink.net.



Solution: Page 23

Across

2. "As It Plesse God" was the motto of Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of _____.
5. Arms were originally a method by which combatants could _____ each other on the battlefield.
7. Ralph Fitzherbert's alabaster effigy shows the Yorkist livery collar of suns and _____.
9. Edmund of Langley used a falcon within a _____ as a badge. Also, "Within the _____" a novel by Ricardian Brian Wainwright.
10. The components of arms (as shown by two mermaids found gripping the shield in figure 1) are called _____.
12. Another term for the shield in an achievement of arms.
17. In a "coat of arms," a _____ is a three-dimensional object at the top of a helm.
19. When they weren't wearing ceremonial tabards, heralds identified themselves with a _____ of office, which was supposed to give them immunity when working in enemy territory.
20. The name of the traditional heraldic color associated with gold is _____.
23. Together all the components of one's arms are called a full _____ of arms.
24. The use of puns of names or titles symbolized in heraldic art.
25. A junior, or probationary, herald was called a _____.
28. The name of the traditional heraldic color associated with blue is _____.
29. "Loyaulte me lie" was Richard's _____.
30. The name of the traditional heraldic color associated with silver is _____.
31. In his youth, Richard III wrote this motto in his copy of "Ipomedon."
32. Richard's badge was a white _____.
33. This French king wasn't "accompanied by heralds and trumpeters as are most princes." He tricked Edward IV by sending a valet disguised as a herald to negotiate during the English invasion of 1475.
34. Edward IV used a white _____ as a badge; commonly used as a badge by the Mortimer Earls of March.
35. In Richard, Duke of Gloucester's, copy of the French prose "Tristan," _____ wrote the motto: "Without Changing" above her signature.
37. George, Duke of Clarence's animal emblem was a _____.
38. In the 15th century, a herald's ceremonial garment, bearing his master's arms, was called a _____.
39. Edward IV used this as one of his mottos - "Comfort et liesse" which translates to "Comfort and _____."

Down

1. In 1484, Richard established the _____ College or, as it's known today, the College of Arms.
3. In heraldry, this mythical beast represented "Extreme courage." Used as one supporter in the current royal arms.
4. The name of the traditional heraldic color associated with red is _____.
6. "Honi soit qui mal y pense" is the motto of the Order of the _____.
8. Which powerful northern family (known for switching sides) used an Eagle and Child as its badge?
9. One of Richard, Duke of York's animal emblems was a _____.
11. Coats of arms are not granted to families; arms are granted to _____.
13. Any design or shape placed on the shield in an achievement of arms.
14. After becoming Margaret Beaufort's daughter-in-law, Elizabeth of York used this motto: _____.
15. Widely admired as a knight and a scholar, this Yorkist used the motto: "Nulle La Vault." He was _____.
16. "Arms" as one component refers to the _____ in the design.
18. Originally, heralds acted to organize and proclaim _____. (By becoming acquainted with knight's arms at these, the herald's duties changed over time.)
21. Herald's work in identifying arms and ensuring that descendants have a right to use the arms equips them with a great knowledge of _____.
22. The only surviving relic of Warwick the Kingmaker is said to be a ring engraved with a bear and ragged staff and this motto: _____.
24. Richard granted the new Herald's College a house in _____ which Henry Tudor later usurped for his mother.
26. The name of the traditional heraldic color associated with green is _____.
27. William, Lord Hastings' emblem was a mythical beast that had a lion's body with a human face. This beast was called the _____.
31. In heraldry, this hunting dog represented "Courage, vigilance and loyal fidelity." It shared its name with the first Earl of Shrewsbury, who won many victories in France before dying at the Battle of Chastillon.
34. The color white in Richard's badge of the white boar probably symbolized _____.
36. Warwick the Kingmaker's animal emblem was a _____.

2007 Ricardian Tour

Pam Butler, Linda Treybig & Virginia Poch

The 15th Annual Tour for members and friends of the Richard III Society took place from June 23 through July 3, 2007. The tour coordinator was Linda Treybig; tour members included Pamela J. Butler, Kathryn M. Davidson, Nancy Detrick, Jamie Kim, Dikki-Jo Mullen, John J. O'Farrell, Virginia Poch, Carol Rondou, Leona Rondou, Alison Walsh Sackett, Susan W. Vaughn, Joan Urry, and Sarah Walsh.

The sites we visited which had associations with Richard III included Middleham, Bolton, Warwick, Corfe and Arundel castles and the parish churches of Middleham, Sutton Cheney, and Bere Regis, as well as glorious Wells Cathedral. We made our annual pilgrimage to Bosworth Battlefield.

Other venues were Berkeley Castle, the unique cloistered ruins of Mt. Grace Priory, two engaging medieval manor houses, legendary Glastonbury Abbey, the fascinating "plague village" of Eyam, and Haddon Hall, England's most outstanding medieval stately home. We were accompanied by Ricardian friends from various English branches and groups on several occasions — always a special treat for all of us! We made a rare excursion into the England's West Country, where we met up with friends from the friendly Devon & Cornwall Branch while visiting Cotehele House and Buckland Abbey, home to Sir Francis Drake.

Yorkshire Dales

Linda Treybig: On an overcast, drizzly day, I stepped off the plane at Manchester Airport, ready for my much-anticipated annual foray into the world of Richard III. Unbeknownst to me, this weather was a harbinger of what was yet to come — a week and a half of unsettled and often rainy weather, which is most unusual for June. Unfortunately, a few of us also came down with a flu bug and several others suffered small accidents of one sort or another during the course of the tour. Sadly, one of our group members, Nancy Detrick, a devoted Ricardian and great group member, arrived nursing a respiratory infection that not only failed to improve but later resulted in her hospitalization in Devon and eventually in her death several weeks later.

That evening, I met five other group members, all of us early arrivals, over dinner at our pleasant small hotel nearby and we began to get acquainted. The next morning, we greeted the rest of those who were to be our fellow travelers, met our driver, Paul Portasman, boarded our comfortable coach, and were finally on our way!

A short tour through the lower Yorkshire Dales, with a stop for lunch in an attractive Dales market town, brought us to our hotel in Leeds. After an afternoon resting or visiting the Royal Armouries nearby, we enjoyed a delightful, somewhat clamorous dinner with members of the Yorkshire Branch in the hotel's dining room. Among those meeting us were John Audsley, Gerald and Moira Habberjam, Marjorie Hodgkinson and Lynda Telford. Carol Rondou remarked that meeting the Yorkshire Branch members was one of her favorite memories. Several interesting new theories about various things Ricardian were shared, and let's just say that no one was at a loss for words. What fun! Virginia Poch had brought a tour mascot, "Cedric the Boar" to entertain us on our adventures; he became the tour mascot.

We spent the following gray morning in the attractive little town of Middleham, where we explored both the rugged castle that was Richard's favorite home and the parish church of St. Mary and St. Alkelda.

Pam: It's a great little church which has windows and décor which have been described elsewhere. A reproduction of the Middleham jewel can be seen there.

Legend has it that Alkelda was a Christian Saxon princess who was murdered by two Danish women in A.D. 800. Just seven years earlier, Vikings had invaded and destroyed the settlement on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, and nothing had seriously impeded the progress of the invasion across northern England. Bones believed to be those of St. Alkelda were buried in the southeast part of the church.

Richard founded and incorporated a college here in February, 1477; in 1482, it was exempted from ecclesiastical jurisdiction. It became known as the "King's College, Middleham" after Richard acceded to the throne, but after his death, lost that title, even though the college continued to operate.

Middleham Castle: The church brochure states: "Under the Tudors Thomas Cromwell, under the sanction of Henry VIII as Head of the Church, licensed the Dean to grant probates of wills, decide ecclesiastical suits, and exercise all the other privileges within his jurisdiction, thus confirming the power and exemptions enjoyed by the College. Couples could be married in the church without a license or publications of banns, so that by the eighteenth century Middleham had become a kind of Gretna Green."

For lunch, we went to the Wheatsheaf Inn in Carperby, where James Herriot and his wife Helen spent

their honeymoon in 1941. This is located just north of Aysgarth and a short distance southwest of Bolton Castle. They still serve great food there; I had a superb vegetable-based soup with salad, and enjoyed the special beer produced by the Black Sheep Brewery in nearby Masham. Other tour members sensibly chose more healthful beverages, but I saw this as an opportunity to try something not available at home.

Linda: Next, we paid a call on Castle Bolton, home of Scrope Family, friends and followers of Richard III, and later one of Mary, Queen of Scots' many prisons. Classified as a fortified manor house, this impressive structure really is more castle than manor house (even having the requisite dungeon!) and offers breath-taking views out across Wensleydale.

Pam: This was my third visit to Bolton Castle, and the first time that no "live reenactments" were going on. Quite often one will encounter huge school groups in period costume (16th or 17th century) learning first-hand how it would have been to have lived in the past.

Our first full day ended with a visit to fascinating Mount Grace Priory, a medieval Carthusian foundation in which the monks lived in self-contained, little apartments, in hermitic seclusion, somewhat like medieval condos! Standing in a fully restored unit, one can gain some insight into medieval monastic life as lived up through Richard's era. Leona Rondou said, "I was amazed at the size and beauty of the Priory."

I was pleased to be able to reach this so via the tour, as it's a bit more challenging to reach by public transport. I especially liked the one cell which was rebuilt and refurbished to look like an actual functioning place, complete with bed, table, chair, dresser, and a stylized monk figure looking out a window. A steep set of stairs led to upper chambers where some of the work was done: the spinning wheel was something of a surprise.

City of York

See Virginia Poch's more complete description on York.

Linda: Perhaps not unexpectedly, we met with strong winds and torrential rains the next day which we spent at leisure in York, but we didn't let it dampen our spirits! Purchasing cheap rain ponchos and dodging in and out of protective areas, everyone managed to remain cheerful and to pack a lot of sightseeing into our time in this wonderful ancient city.

Pam: Magnificent York Minster, 250 years in the making, and finished around the time of Richard's marriage to Anne, is the largest gothic cathedral in northern Europe (according to several sources.) It seems that every cathedral claims having the biggest or best of some architectural feature, and they're all wonderful, but my favorite aspect of York Minster is how bright and airy it is. Light comes in from the tower and clerestory windows, the stone is a reflective white color,

and it seems to be less "cluttered" with monuments than other cathedrals, making it seem more spacious. There have been a series of churches at this location; according to the Venerable Bede, it began as a wooden chapel which was built for the purpose of baptizing King Edwin of Northumbria in 627 A.D.. In later years, Saxon, Dane, and Norman structures superseded it. However, later excavations revealed that Roman buildings had been here prior to that, and the evidence can be seen in the crypt tour.

Peak District of Derbyshire

Linda: Up bright and early on the next day, June 26th, we boarded our coach and said farewell to Yorkshire. The heavy, unrelenting rain of the day and night before resulted in heavy flooding across a large area, so we were obliged to take a rather haphazard detour around Sheffield the next morning as we made our way south to Eyam in the Peak District of Derbyshire, with its touching story of bravery and self-sacrifice. Here we were joined for the day by Pauline Pogmore of the Yorkshire Branch, who was eager to share her knowledge of the legendary "plague village."

Pam: In September of 1665, a bolt of cloth from plague-infested London was delivered to Eyam's tailor George Viccars, and this bolt is believed to have carried fleas. Viccars very quickly became ill and died, and the disease began spreading to other residents of the village. Rector William Mompesson and a colleague, Thomas Stanley, called upon the villagers to isolate themselves from the outside world in order to prevent the spread of the disease. Exactly how the plague spread was not known at that time. Most of the residents agreed to what was almost certainly a death sentence, and 260 of the 350 inhabitants died from the affliction over the next 15 months, until it could run its course. We can never truly know how many other people outside the village were saved by this act of self-sacrifice. They at least didn't die from starvation, as the lord of nearby Chatsworth agreed to provide food.

The Church of St. Lawrence has a crude Saxon font inside. In the churchyard stands a well-preserved Saxon cross, not far from the tomb of Mrs. Mompesson, one of the victims of the plague.

En route to Haddon Hall, we were treated to two examples of well-dressing next to a church; I believe this was in the town of Bakewell, although I can't recall the landmarks of the town which I'd seen on previous visits. This custom of decorating wells with exquisite artwork using only natural substances seems to be a feature limited to Derbyshire, and is done to express gratitude for the gift of good water. Seeds, leaves, flower petals, etc. are extensively used, and a lot of planning goes into the effort, as the results are stunning.

Well-dressing is believed to be of pre-Roman Celtic origin. The Celts in these remote hills may have been able to resist being totally absorbed into the various conquering cultures of Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Normans and thus able to retain certain aspects of cultural uniqueness (although this is just a theory.)

Linda: We next visited lovely medieval Haddon Hall, and Pauline continued sharing her knowledge with us. This rare 12th century structure, home to the Dukes of Rutland and possibly the earliest of co-called “stately homes” in the country, has undergone amazingly few changes through restoration and modernization over the centuries. Set amidst heavenly gardens and surrounded by lovely countryside, it never fails to charm its visitors.

Pam: After crossing the bridge to the entrance to Haddon Hall, we noticed some interesting topiary figures to our left, one being of a gigantic boar’s head. Then we turned right and climbed up to the entrance of the house itself. After getting through “security,” many of us headed straight on through the courtyard to the chapel, where we were treated to views of faded medieval paintings on the walls. There is an effigy of a boy who died young.

Crossing the courtyard again to the main living quarters, we enter into the Banqueting Hall which dates to c. 1370, with a large fireplace, a minstrel’s gallery, decorated with tapestries and the antlered stags’ heads. Some of the large tapestries were gifts from Henry VII and Henry VIII to the Vernon family, which served the monarchs faithfully. Henry Vernon had served as a tutor to Prince Arthur.

The huge kitchen is just a few steps away and has several specialty rooms attached to it: pantry, bakery, buttery, and a room for salting baths.

The Long Gallery, with oak paneled-walls and diamond-paned windows, has beautifully carved furniture and would have been a good place to get exercise in the winter months. We began to see costume displays from the recent Jane Eyre production by BBC which was filmed at Haddon Hall: the beautiful clothing made for the characters “Mr. Rochester, Jane, Blanche, and Adele” could be inspected closely. The beautiful flower-filled gardens are best viewed, in my opinion, from the balustraded terrace.

There’s a famous story about how Dorothy Vernon, daughter of H. Vernon, who was in love with Sir John Manners, second son of the Earl of Rutland, but was forbidden by her parents to see him. He would sometimes dress up as a commoner to meet her secretly. During a ball given to celebrate the engagement of her elder sister to Thomas Stanley, Dorothy and John slipped away to get married in Leicestershire. They were eventually forgiven

by the family, and in time, Haddon Hall came to be owned by the Earls of Rutland.

We continued our journey southward through Matlock and into the Midlands.

Linda: Due to partial clearing as we continued on our journey, the sun did manage to peek through the clouds a few times, and we arrived at the charming Sysonby Knoll Hotel in Melton Mowbray under clear skies, where we enjoyed as our reward a delicious dinner!

Visiting Bosworth Battlefield

Linda: Due to the ongoing excavations in pursuit of the accurate site of the Battle of Bosworth, it’s become a little ticklish to know what to expect when the group arrives at the Battlefield Centre. After hanging our annual memorial wreath at Sutton Cheney Church, we were treated to an excellent guided tour — of even greater interest now that it also includes information on the alternative battlefield site of Dadlington.

Virginia Poch, on the memorial stone: We were all, on that overcast blustery Tuesday, gathered around the grey roughly diamond-shaped stone memorial to King Richard’s last feat of honor at Bosworth Field where several members waited to lay a single white rose). Suddenly, a prolonged ear-piercing scream shattered the relative peace of the place. Looking up, we saw a lone Royal Air Force jet dive into view, touching low as though it were making a pass straight at the memorial. One could imagine it was dipping its wings in honor of its ancient warrior king. As quickly, it roared away, trailing its concussive rumble with it and vanishing into the steely skies as though slipping time and space.

Pam: Getting to the memorial stone was easier this time, as we rode the bus to the Shenton Station area to avoid a long walk in the rain. We were still able to see the heraldry signs for Sir John Savage and the earl of Oxford.

Some of the Lottery funding for Bosworth Battlefield appears to be allotted for the building of a medieval-style village called Ambion Parva. These structures are being built with authentic medieval techniques, with adjustments made to meet certain modern safety regulations.

Paul Parker, of Les Routiers des Rouen, was drilling some school children in medieval military tactics when we arrived, but afterwards treated our group to a demonstration of the many ways various weapons (such as halberds) could be used.

Lunch in the “tithe barn” was great, although my Cornish pasties took a lot of time to prepare. Given the time limitations, it’s better to buy something ready-made. I very much enjoyed having hot tea with milk, though, along with our bus driver Paul, who loved tea and had no tolerance for coffee. In the meantime, Carol Rondou continued conversing with Paul Parker,

who gave her a cannon ball to hold. This had been discovered in the area recently.

Linda: We next visited the city of Leicester, where we were able to catch a glimpse of Bow Bridge as we paid a visit to the Castle Gardens to view the marvelous statue of Richard III that was contributed by the Society.

Pam: To get the easiest access to Castle Gardens, we were dropped off in front of St. Mary de Castro Church, where Chaucer is said to have been married to Philippa Swynford. This makes sense to me, as it is adjacent to the mound which once contained part of John of Gaunt's castle. On our way to see the statue of Richard, we passed a group of teen boys clustered under a bit of shelter who called out to us to apologize for the rain. That was a bit unexpected from such a group, yet many of the English made the same apology to us.

Linda: Gem of the Day: In leaving Leicester, as our driver made a route adjustment, several of us looked around and were astonished to spy a prominent sign posted on the corner marking the property as belonging to the Richard III Nursery School! What? Someone had the audacity to name an institution for childcare after that hunchbacked monster who killed the dear little princes and heaven knows how many other innocent people? Needless to say, this made our day! We all laughed so hard that one of us almost fell off her seat.

Warwick and Berkeley Castles

Linda: Oh, joy! We finally wake to a sunny day! First call was the town of Warwick, where we visited the notable Beauchamp Chapel and the Collegiate Church of St. Mary's. We spent the remainder of the morning exploring fabulous Warwick Castle, a World Heritage site and home of Warwick, the Kingmaker. Birthplace of Anne Neville (Richard's queen), Warwick Castle was the setting for many historical events over the centuries and also played host to Richard III during his coronation progress.

Pam: The Beauchamp Chapel has exquisite wall paintings, windows, and tomb effigies. The famous brass effigy of Richard Beauchamp is here, and nearby are the tombs of Robert Dudley, a favorite of Elizabeth I, and his wife Lettice Knollys, a cousin to the Queen. Robert's brother Ambrose Dudley's tomb is just steps from Beauchamp's, and Robert Dudley's son "The Noble Imp" is also here.

Outside the Beauchamp Chapel, in the chancel, is the double-tomb of Thomas Beauchamp (died 1369), who had seen military action at Crécy and Poitiers, and his wife Katherine Mortimer, daughter to Roger Mortimer the traitor. These are Richard Beauchamp's grandparents. The tomb is special not only due to her headdress fashion, but because the couple is holding hands. To the north of this, in the chapter house, is the

tomb of Fulke Greville, who was murdered by an unhappy servant in 1628. His ghost is said to have been seen in what is now the "ghost tower" of the castle.

The entrance to Warwick Castle is particularly spectacular, with a large gatehouse & barbican flanked by

Guy's Tower to the right and Caesar's Tower to the left. The first sight on entering the motte built even before William the Conqueror arrived in 1068—the hill mound was built in 914 A.D. on the orders of Ethelfleda, Queen of the central Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia and daughter of Alfred the Great, to guard and defend against the Danish invaders. William the Conqueror added extra fortifications built on top and built the castle.

Among the things to do at Warwick Castle are to climb the two towers, for great views, or to climb the motte for a view of the Avon River and the gardens and fields beyond; to visit the "Kingmaker" exhibit and its display of medieval life; to visit "A Royal Weekend Party, 1898" to see figures of Edward VII, Winston Churchill, and a number of ladies getting ready for a party, or to visit the display of armor and weapons, or the dungeon itself.

The Kingmaker display shows scenes of the Kingmaker and his army getting ready to make the final trip of his life—to Barnet. The Kingmaker figure has one of those Henry V "bowl" haircuts, and holds a sword aloft to inspire his men. Some are loading weapons & equipment, others are preparing the horses or armor, with women making pennants or mending tents.

Linda: During the early afternoon we made a leisurely trip through the mellow, golden countryside of the (oh, so quaint!) Cotswolds.

Pam: It's all green to me! We passed through the rapidly-growing town of Chipping Campden, then had our pub lunch at "The Baker's Arms," in Broad Campden just south of there, great for its soup, bread, sandwiches, and beer—and probably everything else.

Linda: We made our way to historical Berkeley Castle. Though arriving at an unexpectedly early closing time, the staff were kind enough to not only allow us entry but also to escort us through this marvelous property and answer our many questions. Full of history (most notably the imprisonment and death of Edward II) and owned by the same family for over 850 years, Berkeley Castle features both a medieval kitchen and magnificent Great Hall and is surrounded by a fine terraced Elizabethan garden.

Pam: The barn-shaped great hall with its impressive beamed ceiling witnessed the gathering of the barons in 1215 while they were preparing to confront King John with the Magna Carta. In 1327, it was reported that Edward II was murdered here, and that his screams of agony could be heard across three counties,

although some historians argue that he wasn't murdered, but escaped abroad. I suppose we should never look at history as being set in stone; it's more like writing in the sand. We were shown the room in which Edward II was allegedly murdered, but weren't allowed to go into it.

In 1399, Edmund Duke of York, Richard III's great-grandfather, was forced at this location to submit to Bolingbroke's superior forces and renege on his allegiance to Richard II.

Many of England's monarchs have visited Berkeley Castle over the centuries. Queen Elizabeth I was one of them, and the bedspread (counterpane) she used is on display as one of the castle's treasures. Sir Francis Drake was also a frequent visitor; his cabin chest is here. The other displays of furniture, portraits, tapestries, china, and silver are also impressive.

It is believed that William Shakespeare was commissioned to write "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in 1595 or 1596 for the wedding of Sir Thomas Berkeley and Elizabeth Carey.

In the English Civil War, a curtain wall suffered damage from the bombardment that the Parliamentarians were giving the castle, and the Royalists surrendered after 3 days. Parliament forbade the repair of this wall.

Britain's last motley fool was murdered here in June of 1728. Dicky Pearce, dwarf and court jester to the earl of Suffolk, was telling jokes from the halls minstrel gallery. One of the barons there didn't like his jokes and tossed him from the gallery, the legend goes. The jester was buried in the churchyard near the castle.

Historical reenactments routinely take place here in the warm weather months, and the ghost tours will soon be a regular activity at the castle. We stayed in a hotel in the outskirts of Bristol that evening.

Wells Cathedral and Glastonbury Abbey

Linda: The next day, it was "all aboard" again for the small city of Wells. Wells Cathedral is an architectural gem is still surrounded by much of its medieval complex – both the old and new Bishop's palaces and the fine chapter house, as well as a charming little lane of medieval cottages called Vicar's Close, many inhabited today by the cathedral choristers.

Pam: The west front entrance contains an amazing number of saintly figures. On going inside, the cathedral feels light and bright—very welcoming. The famous "scissors arches," installed 600 years ago to support the tower, are one of the first features to catch the eye. The brochures there tell us that this was the first cathedral to be completed in the gothic style; many other cathedrals we've visited have had a mix of Romanesque/Norman style and the later English/gothic style.

The oldest object in the cathedral is the Saxon font, over 1000 years old, built with the honey-colored limestone which was used in building the cathedral. It was moved here from the Saxon cathedral which once stood nearby. The cover is crown-shaped and painted in red and gold.

The stone pillars to the west of the font have expertly-carved capitals showing figures which depict everyday life or humorous scenes. One shows a man with a toothache, and another shows grape thieves getting caught and receiving "justice."

Other noteworthy characteristics are the steps to the chapter house, the choir, and the clock in the south transept. Actually, the north transept has a clock both inside and outside. The famous 1392 clock inside the north transept is a 24-hour model, with "noon" being at the top and "midnight" at the bottom. Every quarter-hour, the "knights" come out in circular fashion to ring the time.

Virginia and I spent most of our allotted time at the Bishop's Palace next door, and had to see the

cathedral hurriedly at the last moment. The Bishop's Palace affords great views of the cathedral, and the source of the water. The town of Wells itself is quite charming, and a whole day should be spent seeing it.

Linda: After a leisurely morning spent exploring the splendid cathedral and shopping in its bookstore, we traveled a few more miles down the road for an afternoon visit to legendary Glastonbury Abbey. Rich in religious and historical connections and one of England's earliest centers of Christianity, Glastonbury Abbey is believed to be the burial site of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere – altogether an intriguing place to visit.

Pam: This area appears to have been a site of pre-Christian worship, and Glastonbury attracts New Age visitors, particularly during the summer solstice celebrations on the 21st of June. The town became an early magnet of Christian worship as well; it is traditionally considered the first Christian sanctuary in Britain.

Legend has Joseph of Arimathea and his great-nephew Jesus building Glastonbury's first church of wattle-and-daub. This church was recorded as still standing in 600 A.D. (although it burned down in 1184 AD when the Abbey itself burned to the ground in Henry II's reign.) After the Crucifixion, Joseph is said to have returned to the area, known as the Isle of Avalon (as the hill was still surrounded with water at that time) and to have buried the Holy Grail, which had captured some of Christ's blood from the Cross, for safekeeping at the bottom of the Tor, and soon a spring burst forth. This became known as the Chalice Well, whose water conferred health and youthfulness. Weary from the trip, Joseph planted his staff in the ground before resting, and by morning, it had taken root and bloomed into a tree,

the sacred Glastonbury Thorn. It is located behind St. Patrick's Chapel (and the visitors' museum.)

Saint Dunstan was educated at Glastonbury Abbey, and as its abbot introduced the Benedictine Rule. He went on to become the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The monks discovered the remains of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere about "seven feet under" in 1191, it is reported. Underneath a stone slab located between two massive pillars was foot-long lead cross with a Latin inscription stating (in translation): "Here lies buried the renowned King Arthur in the Isle of Avalon." There were smaller bones nearby, and a scrap of hair which instantly crumbled to dust; these were explained as belonging to Guinevere. In 1278, the bones were reburied in a black marble tomb in the chancel while King Edward I and Queen Eleanor were making a state visit. After the Dissolution had destroyed the church itself, these bones remained until they were vandalized, and no one has seen or heard of them since then.

These legends attract visitors to the area, and were perhaps developed for the purpose of encouraging pilgrimages to the Benedictine Monastery.

At the time of the Dissolution, King Henry VIII had the abbot arrested and hanged. Henry watched the burning of the abbey from the top floor of the George and Pilgrim Inn on nearby High Street. The museum near the entrance displays artifacts and tells of the history of Glastonbury Abbey; it also includes a model depicting how the abbey would have looked at the height of its glory.

Near the ticket counter, we were invited by a poster to find "Sir Richard Pollard" on the grounds, dressed in a lavish, fur-lined Renaissance costume, "to get a tour of the ruins of the abbey he worked to destroy." We found him between the Abbot's Kitchen and the Lady Chapel, and had a nice chat.

Devonshire: Cotehele House and Buckland Abbey

Linda: Then, it was on to Devon, where we spent the next two nights in a small country hotel that had everything going for it – a cheery, helpful staff, charming cottage-style rooms, delicious food, a wonderful location that was only a short walk from Buckfast Abbey, and glorious views of Dartmoor.

Pam: We next visited Cotehele House, north of Plymouth in the Tamar River Valley. We crossed the Tamar River on a spectacular bridge into Saltash, Cornwall before turning north, which appeared to be a faster route, as it avoided most of the Plymouth traffic. Nevertheless, nearer to Cotehele, the roads become small, twisting lanes into a forest with deep undergrowth. Here we were met by several members of the Devon & Cornwall Branch, with whom we enjoyed our visit to this marvelous 15th century knight's dwelling.

Cotehele House appears to have been left untouched by war, and my guess is that it was because no one could find it. The walls of the mail hall are covered with displays of armor, spears, and guns. Gorgeous tapestries appear to cover just about all the available wall space in the rest of the rooms, and some of the carved wooden furniture was regarded covetously. There is no electric light in the house, although, of course, there is electricity in the restaurant area, which later served us hot tea and lunch.

Sir Richard Edgcumbe began building this Tudor house in 1485 using the proceeds awarded him by Henry VII for services rendered at Bosworth Battlefield; the family had owned the land since 1353. Sir Richard's daughter eventually became a grandmother to Sir Walter Raleigh, and a few generations later,

Margaret Edgcumbe became a favorite maid of honor with Queen Elizabeth I. (Margaret married a Mr.

Denny later.) Several generations of the family have served in Parliament.

A chapel has been in the house since it was first built; there are three squints looking into it; one from the solar room upstairs. (A "squint" is a place to peek into adjoining rooms.) The chapel also contains a clock, but not the kind which has a face; it's the kind which times the ringing of bells, a similar concept to the clock at Salisbury Cathedral. The chapel clock is the earliest domestic clock in England, and unaltered and in its original position—and is still in working order! The medieval kitchen is tall (there were once vents near the top for letting out smoke) and the fireplace used to cook is 10 feet wide. The family seat was moved to Plymouth in 1553, which probably accounts for the preservation of its medieval qualities. Before we said good-bye to this charming house, a few of us discovered a bird's nest in the ladies' restroom and were amused at its choice of shelter.

The Tour Report will continue in the Spring Register



Sometimes the dragon wins . . .

Our Day In York

Virginia Poch

York on the day we visited was all and various kinds of rain, a penetrating kind of wet you feel in early spring or late fall. Walking some of the two mile ram-parts of the 2000 year-old wall surrounding the Medieval Town of York was a lonely affair with most sensible people headed indoors for a hot tea. Yet the ancient stones shown with a crystal shimmer as the rain danced off crags and crevices alike of the massive slabs, small pools danced with the rain drops, sometimes sprightly, other times fiercely, as the rain ebbed but never let go. The vistas of the town were an appealing jumble of times, red and natural stone apartment and business buildings, gabled roofs, brilliant green lawns of enclosed back yards snuggling compactly together. Towering over this were the weathered white-washed spires of York Minster, one side swathed in scaffolding.

Walking up worn smooth stone stairs and down and up again, one passes once-forbidding turreted, slit windowed, tower gates, called bars, now open to the invasion of the outer world and its traffic below.

Around a corner, out of the hard mist, appeared a familiar face on a poster resting along a stone wall, Richard III. Watery vision blurred the images on the succeeding painted posters, theatrical, vivid in the grey, each unmistakably announcing the looked-for but suddenly-appearing destination of Monk Bar and the Richard III Museum. Ducking through the arched doorway a full sized, fully costumed figure greets visitors to the museum and portends the one-man performances that play on a regular basis, but, alas, not today.

Monk Bar

Monk Bar has three stories, the top it is said, added by Richard himself as Duke of Gloucester and Lord of the North. The first floor of the museum is stuffed with goodies in the sales office, the second, a display room with anything and everything York and Richard. The corner turrets feature a garderobe, another holds a tiny dungeon and one with spiral steep stairs the climbing of which a visitor might end up losing his head if the headsman was not absent that day. Also dominating one floor is the dark stained courtroom-styled wooden dock in which another figure of the royal defendant stands in mute pleading of his defense to an empty gallery of chairs, the jury, which would not hear arguments today.

But, even so, visitors can vote. The tallies decidedly are not in the king's favor. He has much 'suading to do.

One finds the display floor filled with enough memorabilia and signage to cheer the heart of Ricardians on this gloomy day. A close look around at the poster boards, the ancient arches of the ceilings and ribbed supports, and walled blocks of gray stone reminds everyone that significant and serious business once occurred here.



York Minster view from the City Walls

Krystian Hasterok

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York Minster

Moisture must have invaded the camera housing as the indoor pictures of the museum and York Cathedral present a ghostly glow, with two squarish waifs appearing on several photos inside the Minster, one near an ancient tomb with pillared canopy and late Renaissance effigy.

The Minster, soaring in its quiet grace, canopied ceilings of molded stone, gorgeous carvings and stained glass, does not show as brightly as on a clear day, yet the beauty of the glass figures cannot be hidden. How stunning these could appear is visible in the display beneath the church, the undercroft, as it is called. Several samples were back-lighted and each detail, as well as the colors, spoke of the lost skills of these long vanished artists.

The undercroft also features a well laid out tour of the various stages of constructions of the massive building, changes in size from Roman beginnings with sophisticated base and support construction design, then Anglo-Saxon and Viking art, the high arched additions of the Norman period and later embellishments. The

carved face of Emperor Constantine greets visitors as you leave the Roman section. The path then leads through the elaborate vaulted crypt with imposing tombs with Latin script and chiseled effigies of Bishops and Monks, once notables, but the wear of age blunting stone and detail.

Barley Hall

Barley Hall is off the beaten path, easy to miss. Once found, though, it is approached by a narrow alleyway and though several close arches, opening wide with its Tudor style wood and daubed L-shaped wings, broad cobble stone court. But the welcome was a mirage and not available to the traveler this time, being a day off for the staff. The long steep iron stairway led only to locked doors.

The view through an alley picture window into the gaily-painted green and red-striped great hall with blond wood board tables suggested a cozening break from the weather; one could imagine brightly flickering torches and fireplaces reflecting color from the walls, servants carrying heavy trays of delights, and well-dressed townsmen and ladies in rousing good cheer. It is said Richard entertained a banquet there, and one might even imagine seeing him hold forth with his retinue.

Merchant Adventurers' Hall

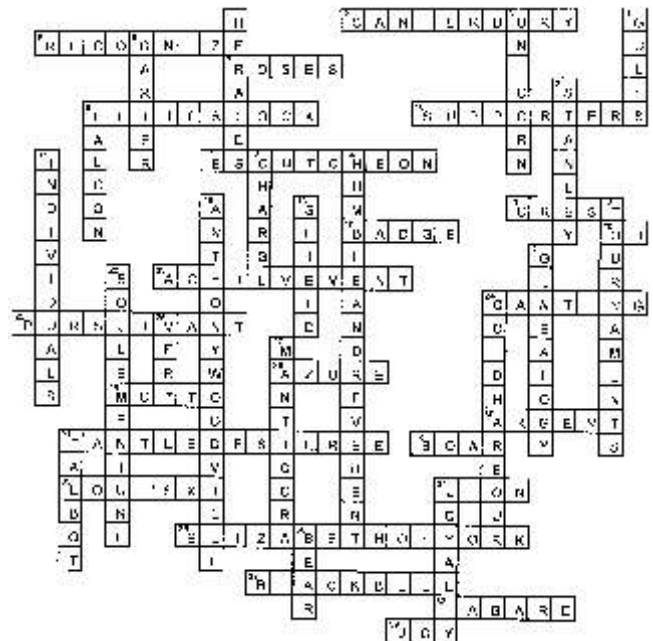
A 650-year-old rectangular medieval guild hall, young by York standards, was this next stop. Built in the daub and timbered style for the upper two-thirds, the structure boasts twin shingled gabled roofs. Peeling red painted natural brick formed its base floor. A glazed black wrought-iron gate marked its green moated territory from the adjacent noisy modern street, but opened to a short stairway and pathway around the sheltered entrance side. Silent and haunted with the activities of banquets, meetings and business of old was the Adventurers and Merchants main Hall. Dark, age-stained, wooden beams, suspended elaborate embroidered banners, tapestries, huge now cold stone fireplaces for cooking and warming and a parquet floor all spoke of the hall's role in York's long story. For some reason, the tourists, the patrons, the staff were not so much about and its former busyness stilled. Upper floors held offices and reception rooms both historical and modern filled with the implements of daily life.

Was it the shelter from the rain, the remembered importance of the place in the lives of the merchant community or, again, the glow from a wet digital camera sensor that seemed to bath everything in a soft light?

Jorvik Viking Centre

A strangely mixed composition of the ancient and modern was the experience of the Jorvik Viking Center. Past and recent excavations on display in a traditional museum setting combine with a lavishly recreated Viking village dating from 975 AD. But to time travel it is necessary to queue up to a moving cart conveyer ride that escorts insistently through the village. Disney has invaded the Viking stronghold. Still, the sites, sounds and smells provide a great sense of what life may have been like, as the artifacts and archeological studies bring a forgotten period vividly to life. As one passes through the museum, large sections of near life-sized displays behind glass open on to a more leisurely viewed detailed look into the lives of the residents: an amniotronic baker, a blacksmith, a housewife and a shoemaker make their complaints, bickering and insider hints a commentary on life in the village, all with the press of a button. There are many interactive elements to explore in this Viking World adventure.

There was much more to York one day is not enough. Brochures and posters advertised numerous ghost tours for a walk on the wild side of historic York, but the subtler, more elusive kind did not have to be chased. They seemed to be likewise seeking shelter from the driving rain, revisiting former haunts. York was wet, it was cold, but it was not to be missed.



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*If you are interested in forming a chapter, contact Eileen Prinsen,
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