

Ricardian Register



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Richard III Forever

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Articles: Leicester: Greyfriars Dig Conference & Rose-Laying Ceremony at Bosworth • Thomas More, Richard III, and Utopia • Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham • Elizabeth's Epistles • Schallek Fellowship Progress Report • New American Branch Website

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Leicester: Greyfriars Dig Conference & Rose-Laying Ceremony at Bosworth

Jonathan Hayes

It is truly a great time to be a Ricardian. Right after the announcement that Richard's remains had been positively identified, the parent Society announced a conference to discuss the results. No way I was going to miss this; I started making travel arrangements. I booked into the Belmont Hotel in Leicester. Since several people I knew from the parent Society would also be staying there, I felt it would be companionable. Travel to Leicester was uneventful—fly to Heathrow, Paddington Express into London and the Tube to St. Pancras where I got a SIM card for my cell phone and caught the train to Leicester. Short walk from the station to the hotel.

England in early March is an iffy proposition and this year the weather has been more extreme than usual. However, I usually have good weather luck, (one of the many virtues I share with her late Majesty, Queen Victoria) and, while the temperatures were usually a bit on the cool side, the rains held off and sunny days prevailed.

Leicester, the Roman *Ratae*, is one of the oldest cities in England. Ruins of the Roman baths, along with mosaic floorings, are on display at the Jewry Museum. As is all too frequently the case, each succeeding generation ripped down the “old” buildings and built their own “new” ones. So in most cases what you're looking at is “the site of.” Not very edifying.

Leicester has gone Richard III-crazy, with Richard III posters exhibited all around town. I took a very nice walking tour, which I found on the internet. It starts at the Magazine, a former gateway for Leicester Castle. There is some speculation that Richard rode out to Bosworth through this gate, which dates from 1410. It's possible, but there's no evidence.

From there you pass Newarke Museum (worth a visit for the intriguing reproductions of shops from the 1940s) to the Great Hall of Leicester Castle, largely obscured by a Georgian building in front. It dates from 1150, so Richard would have known it. It is only open one day a month, however. More significant is St. Mary de Castro church, where Richard almost certainly worshipped. Not always open, but I was lucky. Not architecturally significant, but still nice. The iconic statue of Richard (commissioned in 1980 by the Society) is in the Castle Gardens, a must for every Ricardian to see. From there, it's a short jog to Bow Bridge, which Richard crossed on his way to Bosworth and over which his body was carried after the battle. It's another “site of.” The medieval bridge was not suitable for Victorian-era traffic and would be even less suitable for modern day traffic. Still, one wishes the new bridge had been built next to the old one so it could have survived.

The Travelodge on Highcross Street is the “site of” the Blue Boar Inn where Richard may have stayed the night before Bosworth. There's a Richard III pub next door, but it's basically a football pub with no real connection other than the name. Leicester Cathedral's chancel has a memorial tablet dedicated to Richard. The diocese of Leicester only dates from 1926. Prior to that it had been part of the diocese of Peterborough since Anglo-Saxon times. So the cathedral is the re-branded parish church of St. Martin's - quite a bit more modest than what we normally think of as a cathedral. The Guildhall exhibit of the “dig” next door was getting over 1,000 visitors a day. The “car park” is barricaded off with guards, so no visits there.

I walked back to the hotel along the New Walk, a pedestrian-only street which is 200 years old. Well, it was new then. The New Walk Museum had an interactive DNA exhibit which was quite informative.

Entering the hotel through the bar I spotted members of UK branches. I joined parent Society Chair Phil Stone, his wife Beth, and Philippa Langley. David Johnson, who designed the proposed tomb, his wife Wendy and Society publicity manager Richard Van Allen also sat with us. David explained his thinking in designing the tomb. He'd especially wanted to emphasize Richard's spiritual side. The crosses on the tomb are that of St. Cuthbert whom Richard venerated and the vacant space on the lid symbolizes Richard's transition from earthly to eternal life.

To say the conference on Saturday was a roaring success is putting it mildly. The University of Leicester auditorium holds 485—they had over 1,000 applications for attendance! Sally Keil and I were the only American Branch attendees. David Webb was the only Canadian. Before the talks started, the screen at the front of the auditorium showed the morphing of Richard's reconstructed face into the National Portrait Gallery's iconic portrait. It was amazing how close they were! One thing that's going to need rethinking is the quality of portraiture in Richard's time. Although the National Portrait Gallery one is a copy, the original must have been quite a good likeness to get that close.

After Phil Stone's welcome, Chris Skidmore took over as Chair and Keynote Speaker. Chris is a Member of Parliament, but he is a historian by day, specializing in the Tudor family. Well, somebody's got to do it and the Tudors are both significant and interesting. As he discussed the historians of the Richard era and how they saw Richard through the eyes of their own era and its ideological biases, he highlighted the flip-flops of John Rous. He emphasized that in getting away from the Tudor myth, we must be careful not to build our own myths. One thing he said which surprised me is that we have Polydore Vergil only in Tudor translation—the original Latin is in the Vatican. How many more are waiting discovery?

Philippa Langley and Annette Carson were next—and the star turn. Philippa described standing in the car park over the spot where Richard was subsequently found and the strong feeling she had there which became the driving catalyst for her in her fight for the Dig. It wasn't easy. How could we identify Richard, if found? Where were Richard's remains—Greyfriars or River Soar? Where was Greyfriars? A 2007 dig for the friary had found nothing.

The Leicester City Council signed on to the project (a council member, Sarah Levitt, was a great advocate); they restudied the maps to determine more closely where Greyfriars was. The Society bankrolled £1400 for the research proposal. Society members also contributed the £5000 necessary for the ground-penetrating radar. Since the ground was so broken, no building outlines could be found. In August the shortfall was £10,000; "Richard's Army" came to the rescue and £13,000 was raised. Once the find was made, however, the financial problems were over.

Annette Carson made a contemporary comparison—if the Nazis had won WWII, what would the view of Churchill be? Not the one we have now, that's for sure! The essence of the "Big Lie" is to take a kernel of truth and blow it up. Scoliosis, considered a *condition*, not a *disability*, is actually a fairly common condition, in about 3% of Britons. But Richard's enemies blew that up to "hunchback." Annette then drilled into the details of the succession, bringing up the arguments, which we all know.

Philippa emphasized that in spite of Channel 4, she was not a "crying wreck;" it did a lot of selective editing. The last four years were intense. She is a screenwriter and felt she had really gotten into his life.

After the break, Professor John Ashdown-Hill laid out the "four strands of evidence:" (1) evidence that Richard was buried in Greyfriars, (2) Richard was not thrown into the

River Soar, (3) layout of medieval friaries, (4) his publication of Richard's DNA in the *Ricardian*. His disquisition on the historical evidence was fascinating and quite rigorous as he demolished legends, and pinpointed the friary church location and Richard's grave within the church. His DNA talk was over my head, but he had established that Richard belonged to a 1.5% subgroup of the 17% group, "Jasmine," which originated about 10,000 years ago in northern Syria. So his subgroup rarity would give a very high probability of positive identification if a DNA match was found.

A throw-away line at the end was that friary churches were not deconsecrated at the Dissolution, so Richard rested in consecrated ground for the last 500 years.

Dr. Sarah Knight and Dr. Mary Ann Lund then discussed Richard in the history of drama. One is not supposed to feel pity for the tragic protagonist. Tragedy is about important things; it's supposed to "maketh kings fear to be tyrants." It has always relied on physical disability (Oedipus means "swollen feet"). At the time of Shakespeare, it wasn't necessary to emphasize Tudor legitimacy - the real concern was going forward. Elizabeth was in her 60s and hadn't produced an heir. What happens next? Was Richard III really a satire on the Tudor regime? It has many comedic elements.

We were all ready for the lunch break; the sun had come out and it was a beautiful day. Waylaid by the BBC for an interview, I was last in line for the University catering department's excellent buffet. I took the last seat available, right beside Geoff Davison, the composer of the *Middleham Requiem*! A rare treat! I told him how much I admired his work and he said he hoped to release a commercial recording. All the renewed Ricardian interest provided a better prospect for marketability.

In the afternoon, Professor Mark Lansdale led off with a psychological profile of Richard III. After a short discussion of what psychologists do and the dangers of trying to make such a profile of a person at this distance, he discussed first the personality profile of a murderous psychopath, such as Richard is portrayed in Shakespeare. This is a person who is narcissistic, focused on self-preservation, disordered in his thought and manipulative in interpersonal relations. That's the Richard of Shakespeare, but not the Richard of history. Then there's the person with "intolerance to uncertainty." This is a person with an unsettled childhood, a pious person with strong feelings of duty and loyalty, rigid moral values, a sense of justice, impulsive, fatalistic, and with an authoritarian streak. That sounds a lot like the Richard of history. He concluded with a discussion of psychodynamics: Richard was a great "viceroy," with a #2 Skill set, fit for being viceroy in the North but out of place for Court. Since that's exactly how I've viewed Richard, I have to say Professor Lansdale was spot on. From my perspective, at least.

Professor Caroline Wilkinson described how the facial reconstruction was made. It is actually quite an established art/science. When they've done quality checks (take a CT scan of a living person's skull, do a build-up model and compare it to the living person), 70% are within 2 mm of the actual. That's accurate by any standard. So we can be confident that the facial reconstruction is quite precise, with the caveats that features such as hair and eye color, aging effects and amount of fat, aren't predictable. The reconstruction cost £8000.

Dr. Toby Capwell of the Wallace Collection talked on "Harness for the Differently Aabled", the effect Richard's scoliosis would have had on his armor. He almost treated armor as clothing; most of it is "off the rack." the way we'd buy a suit now. Richard III, for instance, bought 168 complete sets of Milanese armor (cost £560). That was for the average man-at-arms. Richard's would have been Savile Row, bespoke armor, probably in the £20 range. Armorers were as used to working with physical difficulties then as bespoke tailors are now; part of the job is to make the client look good. They had to be experts at

biomechanics—and client psychology. Richard would have needed his cuirass to fit tightly on the right and roomier on the left. He probably had several fitting sessions. We normally think of high-class armor of this period as German or Italian, but there was a definite English school which is portrayed in effigies of the period. The need for individual fittings for Richard argues for the English style for his armor.

Bob Woosnam-Savage of the Royal Armouries, Leeds, discussed the “Violent Death of a King.” He said he did not want a record of his talk as his views were continuously changing as he got further into his analysis of Richard’s wounds. His views six months hence might be totally different than what he was saying at the conference.

Two different types of wounds appear on Richard’s bones: battle wounds that occurred before or that caused his death, and “humiliation wounds” resulting from mutilation of his corpse after death. Bob feels that Richard’s helmet was knocked off in battle (2 cuts on the jaw which possibly cut the helmet straps). A cleaver-like blade wound on the skull would have been fatal, probably from a very sharp halberd. The lack of a helmet is something of which I hadn’t thought. Removing your helmet is the last thing you’d ever do in a medieval battle. With my own poleaxe, I feel confident I could split a helmeted knight’s skull in two *if* I had room to swing it. In the close quarters of a melee, there wouldn’t have been room. The only way such a wound could have been delivered would be if there wasn’t a helmet to impede it. That was good analysis on Bob Woosnam-Savage’s part.

The wrap-up was the Mayor of Leicester, Sir Peter Soulsby, who believes Richard is the greatest thing to happen to Leicester in a long, long time and they intend to milk it for all it’s worth. Phil Stone finished off with the admonition that we all need seriously to rethink our views of Richard and his era, sage advice.

Philippa said she felt that “Richard wanted to be found now”. There is no doubt that now is the right time for it to have happened. Two decades earlier, neither today’s DNA science nor today’s radiocarbon dating precision existed (and how provident is it that the University of Leicester has been a pioneer in DNA science); two decades from now, the DNA from the descendants wouldn’t be available. The right time and a driven person caused it to happen, which is quite amazing.

Sunday, David and Sue Wells, joint Secretaries of the parent Society, very kindly gave me a ride out to Bosworth for the Rose-Laying Ceremony on Sunday (parenthetically, may I say how much I appreciated the kindness and friendliness of all members of the parent Society)? They are all as fine a set of people as you could ever meet. It was as beautiful a day as you could hope for. We laid our roses at the sundial. The ceremony was a simple but dignified and reverent Church of England ceremony. Carl and Sally Keil were also there to represent the American Branch. It has been almost forty years since I’d been to Bosworth. It’s changed a great deal. There is now an excellent interpretive center well e adapted to the new location of the battlefield. It is certainly worth your time if you haven’t been there lately. Go on a sunny day.

I couldn’t make the trip without a couple of days in London—again beautiful walking-around weather. It was forty years since I’d been through the Tower of London and things have changed considerably. I took the free Beefeater tour and it’s a hoot. The Beefeater said the reason the Queen won’t allow DNA testing of “the bones” is they are afraid they won’t be the Princes. The Myth (which is the Party Line) is alive and well. The staircase in the Tower where Tyrell and his evil minions supposedly slunk up to do the dastardly deed is well-marked and there’s an audio: “Uncle Richard?, “Where’s my brother?” Through superhuman effort I managed to avoid trying to smash that exhibit, but I was sore tempted.

It was a wonderful trip and a wonderful Ricardian experience.

Editor's note: The Richard III Society has made the videos of the Leicester conference available on their website, richardiii.net/ and on their channel on YouTube, [tinyurl.com/d5v5ngz](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd5v5ngz) (it is not necessary to prefix the url with http:// if you are typing in the urls by hand because you're reading this from the printed edition and the url that starts with tinyurl doesn't start with www--this is a shortened link, so type it into the address line exactly as you see it).

ToC



Thomas More, Richard III, and Utopia

Bob Duncanson

This is less of a paper and more of a long remark about a possibility that occurred to me. In 1513, Thomas More left his biography of Richard III unfinished and unpublished. In 1516 he published *Utopia*, heavily criticising the current English (and European) government and culture, comparing it with *Utopia*, a perfect society on the other side of the world. My thought was that perhaps he started with the idea of comparing a perfectly vile king (Richard, who was not liked by the then-current monarchy) with a perfect one (Henry VII? Henry VIII?). Realizing he couldn't find a perfect king with whom to contrast the evil Richard, he abandoned it. He extended his thinking, broadened his scope and took on all he saw wrong with English and European culture and government, comparing it to a fantastical, perfect world. It was the same thought only much more extensive.

While with More in 1508, Erasmus wrote *The Praise of Folly* in Latin, bringing More under his influence. Folly can mean mental derangement or excess of love and Erasmus used both of these in his book. In *Utopia*, More played the same mental game as Erasmus. At the time, the only thing More boasted about was his memory. Did he remember Morton's comments about Richard and use them as the seed for his work? There is evidence of that in the biography.

More's book on Richard III was the first to be written in both English and Latin and not translated from one to the other. Its 'native English vividness' made it like an Elizabethan play. Does that mean we should take his 'biography' the same way as we do Shakespeare's *Tragedy of Richard III*, with a large dollop of salt?

The book I consulted, *Thomas More* by David Sargent, says that More treated it as a failure, never finishing or publishing it. I believe Sargent missed the possible connexion in More's thinking between Richard III as a bad king and England and Europe as a corrupt culture. Both were caricatures intended to teach and moralise. More was initially writing to amuse his humanist friends but found himself *earnest and indignant* and wrote for a much wider audience. In *Utopia* he started with the perfect world and latterly wrote about the very imperfect, in fact reversing the order he had first intended.

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(Quotes from *The History of King Richard the thirde...*, p. 35, p.37)

Originally presented to the Richard III Society, Canadian Branch

Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham

Richard the Third's Dark Angel

Paul Trevor Bale

One of the most frustrating of all historical questions is how to account for the rise, and subsequent fall, of empires, kingdoms, families, and certain individuals.

In the fifteenth century the reasons for the rise and fall of the Houses of Lancaster and York, the Earl of Warwick, the Duke of Clarence, and the emergence of the Tudors, are all relatively simple to explain. But perhaps one of the biggest questions of all surrounds what is often seen as the sudden spectacular rise to prominence and the equally sudden and spectacular fall of Henry Stafford, second Duke of Buckingham in 1483.

On closer examination, though, in spite of the writings of historians like Pollard, who claims “no evidence of association between Buckingham and Richard before 1483” (1) or Paul Murray Kendall’s claim that “Richard had had small opportunity to know Buckingham well” (2), the lives of Richard of Gloucester and Henry of Buckingham ran along much the same course up to their well known “spectacular” meeting at Northampton in 1483. There were many previous opportunities for the two men to attend and participate in events, and that one should not be surprised that Buckingham availed himself of the chance to leap into the fierce light of history at that particular time. His career “grasping and ambitious” (3) may well prove to have been the inspiration for the character of Shakespeare’s *Richard the Third*. His actions could be the result of a long term plan to bring himself and his family to the throne, taking revenge along the way on those he saw as responsible for the deaths of his grandfather and other family members, those accountable for his exclusion from position at court and power, and his ‘humiliation’ at the hands of his ‘guardian’ Edward IV’s queen, Elizabeth Woodville, who married him to one of her sisters when he was only ten years old. Of all the figures in the story of Richard III, Buckingham is perhaps, on the surface, the most difficult to get a handle on, but not as hard as some would have us believe.

The legend of “high reaching” Buckingham is that although sidelined during the reign of Edward IV, in spite of his royal blood, with the death of Edward IV in 1483 and the arrival of Richard of Gloucester as Protector, Buckingham saw his opportunity to rise to influence and power. This happened in spectacular fashion and his aid was instrumental in propelling Richard onto the throne as King Richard III. Soon after the coronation, in spite of rewards and offices, Buckingham argued with King Richard over his de Bohun inheritance. Egged on by Bishop Morton and Margaret Beaufort, he rebelled against his new king in the name of, firstly the deposed Edward V, then, amidst rumours of Edward V and his brother’s deaths, whom he may have helped murder, in the name of Henry Tudor.

The rebellion was a disaster. Buckingham was betrayed by one of his retainers, tried, and executed at Salisbury. He begged for an audience with the king, but was refused. To Richard, he was “the most untrue creature living.” He was a shooting star, a man of great charm, but also volatile and untrustworthy.

Henry Stafford was born in 1455, the eldest son of Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, heir to the fairly recently created Dukedom of Buckingham. His mother was Margaret Beaufort, daughter of Edmund, 2nd Duke of Somerset, the niece of Henry Tudor’s mother of the same name. His great aunt was the daughter of Ralph Neville, earl of Westmoreland, Anne Neville, sister of the Duchess of York, Cecily Neville, mother of both future kings Edward IV and Richard III. The blood of Edward III flowed strongly in his veins, and the family ties between the Houses of York, Lancaster, Beaufort, and Stafford were strong and close from the start, if not necessarily friendly.

When Richard Duke of York first rebelled against Henry VI's weak rule in 1456 the Staffords, directly descended from Thomas of Woodstock, youngest son of Edward III, remained loyal to the then regime, the Lancastrian branch of the royal family. In spite of a great deal of animosity between Duke Humphrey and Queen Margaret of Anjou, the duke worked constantly for a reconciliation between the York branch of the family and the Queen's faction, led by his uncle the first Duke of Somerset. In spite of his ultimate lack of success, and the personal animosity of Queen Margaret, he remained loyal to the crown, even becoming commander-in-chief of the royal armies at the First Battle of St. Albans, and the Battle of Northampton. After his death at Northampton in 1460 Henry became the new duke, his father having died from the plague in 1458, not as Kendall and others state at St. Albans (4) was taken into royal wardship at the tender age of five, and thus became Lancastrian, as it were, by force.

In 1421, Henry V sued the Dowager Duchess to increase the royal share of the de Bohun inheritance, which in right belonged to the Staffords. This dispute would go on until Richard III granted Buckingham his rightful share after his coronation. A repartition of the de Bohun inheritance did eventually take place that on paper left the Staffords with an on-paper larger share, but also huge legal debts that the crown refused to share with them, or compensate them. Henry VI did grant Duke Humphrey the right to sue for possession of many of his de Bohun lands and titles in 1453 (5) but neither the duke nor his heirs were ever allowed to pursue this. This dispute alone should have been enough to push the Staffords into the York camp at the start of the Wars of the Roses, but Duke Humphrey stayed within the royal circle.

Duke Henry seems to have had little choice when it came to his own particular allegiance, or whom he was supposed to like or support, publicly at least. His loyalties were dictated by first one royal master, then another, and then the second royal master's queen.

Although I doubt they were aware of it, the first meeting of Richard of Gloucester and Henry Buckingham may have taken place when Duchess Cecily of York and her younger children were sent, after the Yorkist debacle at Ludlow, as prisoners into the keeping of her brother-in-law Duke Humphrey at Tonbridge in Kent. Seven-year-old Richard may well have recalled this period of his childhood with some regret and pain, but Henry Stafford at four would probably not have realised the significance. Duke Humphrey is recorded as having treated his sister-in-law with some harshness during this confinement. 'they were kept full strict and many a great rebuke', (6) perhaps as a rebuke for her husband's failure to come to terms with the king and plunge the country into civil war.

Edward IV purchased the wardship of the young Henry from Duke Humphrey's executors in 1464 and the following year, at the age of only ten, he was married to Queen Elizabeth Woodville's sister Katherine. There was not much choice involved for Henry, and he seems to have resented this enforced marriage later in life, as did Warwick at the time. (7) As if to prove the point, Katherine would later be the most notable absentee at Richard's coronation in 1483, which Buckingham was to stage-manage, and which was arguably his greatest moment. (8) Imagine the resentment Henry, Duke of Buckingham must have felt being married into what was then considered a lowly family, and he, directly descended from a line of kings. It was surely difficult to have to sit by and watch as his sisters and brothers-in-law were married into other such highborn families, and these relatives of the Queen were honoured and promoted to the nobility. Richard of Gloucester was with the court at Greenwich in 1465 and probably attended his young cousin Henry's nuptials. (9) The following year there is a tantalising reference to his accompanying Clarence on a wine-ordering trip to Shropshire. Why is not mentioned, but it displays an early

closeness to the younger members of the York family that may have begun during the Tonbridge period.

There is no extant evidence of Buckingham's being taken into a noble house for his training, as Richard Gloucester and George Clarence were taken into the home of Warwick for their knightly education. This may well have contributed to King Edward's later reluctance to allow Buckingham the Constablership of England, an office associated with the Staffords. Kendall states the young man remained with his wife Katherine in the household of her sister Queen Elizabeth Woodville at Ormond's Inn, Smithfield and records exist of payments of £866.13s.4d for her "support of the Stafford boys." (10) His military exploits in 1483 were a total disaster, possibly the result of no proper military training, and he does seem to have lacked martial experience. His absence from the key events of 1469 - 71, notably the battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury, may well have been due to his lack of training. It may also, of course, have been his complicated family connections that put his loyalties in doubt to both sides, a tactful withdrawal on his part to declare neutrality, or simply his lack of years. This did not prevent his cousin Richard of Gloucester from being actively involved.

However, there is one mention of him during this period.

In 1469, after King Edward's capture by Warwick and his short period of imprisonment, Warwick allowed the king to go to Pontefract "on parole," where he secretly summoned his chief lords and friends, Howard, Hastings, Northumberland, the king's brother Richard of Gloucester, and Harry Buckingham. (11) Why the young duke was included in this otherwise impressive list is difficult to comprehend. He was after all only fourteen years old, but it does suggest he was already safely out of danger somewhere, so he would not be putting himself into the king's hands as a hostage. He also accompanied the king and his brother Richard when they entered the capital in October (12) and again during the victory parade after Tewkesbury. Was his appearance at his king's side an early instinct leading him to self-preservation, or the first sign of his greed leading him to the side of the man most likely to return the royal share of the de Bohun estates to the Staffords? As a reward, perhaps for his show of support, King Edward allowed Henry to come into his Stafford inheritance in 1473, but this may have been the result of Woodville pressure rather than from any personal gratitude the king felt towards the duke. As he was with the royal army before Barnet and after Tewkesbury, where was he during the battles? Nobody knows.

The Pontefract reference carries with it that ambiguity that would attach itself to Buckingham throughout his short life, raising the mere mention of his name, more questions than answers. However, it does place him in close proximity to Richard of Gloucester on an important date, with important company, and with important affairs to deal with.

In 1475 he raised a company of 500 archers (13) to accompany King Edward's French expedition. Thus, he was once more in the company of Richard of Gloucester. And like his cousin, he argued about the terms of the treaty of Picquiny and hightailed it back to England before it was signed. (14) So, like Richard, he was not a party to the bribery of the English commanders by the French King Louis XI. Commynes mentions that Richard and 'other persons of quality' were deeply opposed to the treaty. What had Buckingham demanded of his king after their argument to make him react with such decisiveness, not a regular occurrence in his career? Michael Jones suggests "It is likely that the intensely ambitious Buckingham was hoping to win lands and renown through war with France, just as his grandfather had, and violently disagreed with Edward IV over the abandonment of the campaign." (15) Two men of high birth, royal cousins, firmly in the same political camp, shared the same opinions of the conduct of the campaign. However, the king, while respecting Richard's reasons, had no respect for Buckingham's opposition, or his attitude,

which perhaps goes a long way in explaining why Henry was kept from gaining office and influence during the following years of Edward's reign, and to why his help was so welcomed by Richard in 1483.

However, the king may have seen something else in Buckingham and kept him at court on the principle of "keep your friends close and your enemies closer," something Richard never saw until it was too late, after he had allowed him so much power, that proving fatal to Richard III. Did King Edward see his old family Lancastrian loyalties still in place? Did his discontent at his marriage to a Woodville only add to his resentment? His total exclusion from the inner Yorkist power circle is difficult to understand. Tony Pollard suggests "it were on grounds of a suspicion of his own royal ambitions, or a judgement that he was personable unreliable and unfitted for high office." (16) Had he been involved with Clarence and Warwick before Barnet? Many lords were present at the marriage of Clarence to Isabel Warwick in 1468 and Buckingham was perhaps one of them. Note the previous reference to an early friendship when the two young cousins went on a wine-buying trip to Shropshire together in 1466! Is this why King Edward called him to Pontefract for the muster before the Barnet campaign, and why he kept him and his troops close at hand through that year?

On January 15th of 1478 Buckingham was allowed to participate in the ceremonies of the marriage of the king's second son Richard of York, his nephew, and Anne Mowbray, but although he shared duties with the boy's other uncle Richard of Gloucester, his presence may once again have been more because he was married to the Queen's sister than for his being one of the highest born in the land.

'from St Stephen's Chapel the Duke of Gloucester led the bride on
the right hand and the Duke of Buckingham on the left' (17)

Was there ducal pleasure, as well as involvement by Buckingham in the intrigue that brought about the downfall of Clarence, which of course brought Buckingham one step closer to the throne?. Horrox (18) talks of one John TWYNHOE, an unusual name, the same as Ankharette, the lady-in-waiting to Isabel Clarence whom Clarence accused of witchcraft and illegally hanged without trial, almost the final straw for King Edward regarding his brother's treasonable activities. John was one of Buckingham's retainers, steward of Gloucester and Wiltshire in 1473, his attorney at the Exchequer by 1475, a ducal counsellor in 1477, and the Recorder of Bristol. Was John a close relation of Ankharette? Such an unusual name makes one wonder, especially when retainers often served more than one lord, and family members were recommended to their good lords and ladies for service. Then, as now, nepotism was rife. (19)

For the trial of George, Duke of Clarence Buckingham was made Lord High Steward of England, pronouncing sentence and possibly overseeing the execution. He benefited greatly from his cousin's downfall, gaining numerous feoffees and lands from the Clarence estates, thus increasing the duke's patronage and financial power and influence. (20)

However, he still burned to get his hands on the remainder of "his" de Bohun inheritance that included the Earldom of Hereford, an inheritance he felt his due after the deaths of Henry VI and his son Prince Edward in 1471. These deaths had left Henry Stafford the sole heir through the marriage of Thomas Woodstock to the younger heir of the de Bohun fortune, her elder sister having married Henry IV, the first Lancastrian king. With the end of the Lancastrian line Buckingham felt this other part should have passed back to the Staffords, not remain in the royal treasure. This did not happen until Richard of Gloucester became king in 1483, but doubtless Henry would have mentioned it on every possible occasion in the preceding years.

Perhaps King Edward made Buckingham play such a visible part in the fall of Clarence to remind him of what happened to traitors, no matter how close they stood to the throne. Could the two high-born dispossessed of the court spend enough time in each other's company to make King Edward suspicious of Buckingham's collusion in Clarence's treason, but not have any proof to proceed against him? Perhaps he carped on too often about the de Bohun lands and titles, and asked too often for offices that the king would never grant. Buckingham's Stewardship of England for the trial and execution of Clarence was a temporary one, and the last office he was to hold under Edward IV. He found himself cold-shouldered by king and court, and spent as much time as he was able away from court on his estates at Brecon. 'Denied all the offices and responsibilities which his rank might expect, he had even been excluded from all commissions of the peace except for the county of Stafford.' (21)

1483

When King Edward IV died in April of 1483 Buckingham was the first to contact Richard of Gloucester. (22) The speed of his actions, and his knowledge of developments both inside the capital and around the country suggest he had a highly organised network of informants, or as Mary Clive writes 'a remarkably efficient system of messengers.' (23) Buckingham sent his servant Persivall to York, before April 23rd, offering Richard his support, and a force of 1,000 men. Persivall then returned to the Welsh Marches with Gloucester's instructions. Further messages were sent to Richard at Nottingham, where he had arrived by the 26th April, and Persivall again returned in time for Buckingham to organise himself and meet Richard near Northampton on the 29th with a smaller force of about 300. Rawcliffe states that during the 1470s the duke travelled around the country with an entourage of only 60, one he may have felt demeaned his noble and royal position. In 1473 the receiver general anticipated a salaries bill of £133, suggesting an establishment of around 60. But his frequent journeys to Brecon and back were made with a company of the size he brought to Northampton, though in 1476 he took only 66 liveried retainers with him into the wilds of Wales. (24) His offer of such a force as large as a thousand should perhaps have warned Richard to the duke's grandiose ambitions at the start.

In the days just before Richard became king, Duke Henry was seen riding around the city dressed in purple, with a large band of richly appressed retainers. Offering his dubious military services to Richard, he found the size of the force taken to their meeting at Northampton, on direct instructions from his cousin, toned down from that he had suggested to 200. Northampton was the scene of his grandfather's death at Yorkist hands. Did Buckingham reflect on this, hoping to find military glory for himself in the current crisis, or was it simply the opportunist in him seizing the first chance in years for some power and glory? Perhaps the idea of Buckingham's having a long-term plan gives Henry too much intelligence, but it is an interesting thought to consider, nonetheless. Colin Richmond, though without any references to back him up, simply states that at the start of April 1483 'Buckingham had little political power, and less political sense. He had many scores to settle with the king. Desire to dismantle the Edwardian settlement dominated his limited intelligence, and he had no thought for the welfare of the political community at large.' (25) Oddly enough Kendall suggests that by April of 1483 Richard had had little opportunity to know Buckingham well, (26) but I do not understand his reasoning on this.

C. Leach in a Ricardian article a few years ago suggested that Buckingham's "sudden" rise to power and close personal friendship with Richard held a homoerotic attraction for Richard, as well as being a powerful reminder of the charm of Clarence. While this latter is possible, I find the former inconceivable. Why would Richard suddenly develop an attraction for another man at such a late age, particularly one he had known well for many

years before 1483? Buckingham is an elusive character but there seems little point attaching just any theory to try to explain him, and after all he was a member of the inner court circle of Edward IV, and as such Richard and Henry would have known each other fairly well before 1483, if not intimately (no sexual connotation).

Thus Buckingham in 1483 may well have simply decided to take this opportunity to grab at power, as well as a chance for revenge on both the Woodvilles, and eventually, the House of York. I believe he also saw it as his best shot at a crown. Had he not rebelled he could even have been in the running to be named as Richard's heir after the death of Prince Edward. His adoption of the arms of Thomas of Woodstock had angered Edward IV and been instrumental in his refusing Buckingham's claim to the Bohun lands and titles. The claim's being a part of Henry VI's legacy, an acknowledgment would have been tantamount to recognising Buckingham's claims to the throne, and may even have put his own crown in danger. In view of what was to happen during the reign of his younger brother, King Edward's suspicions proved true, and are doubtless the reason he kept Buckingham close to hand, and powerless.

The importance of the de Bohun inheritance, this famous, much quoted, claim, cannot be underestimated in the career of the 2nd Duke of Buckingham. Even Shakespeare refers to the king's refusal of it as being the cause of his rebellion against Richard. Buckingham indeed felt that as the Stafford heir he alone had claim to the office of Constable, previously held by his grandfather. Imagine his resentment at Gloucester's appointment in 1471. (27) Did he still hold this resentment in 1483, exacerbated when King Richard handed the role to Stanley in an attempt to bring his long-term adversary on his side? This was undoubtedly one of those many scores he had to settle with the Edwardian settlement. Precedent was often used to make a claim for office during this period. The Bohuns had held the office of Constable since feudal times and considered it their right. After the death of his grandfather, Henry VI had removed it from the Stafford family, only allowing the Dowager Duchess, and in turn Henry himself, the right to sue for it as a part of the de Bohun inheritance. During the reign of Edward IV, when allowed a role to play in events, like the High Stewardship for the trial and execution of Clarence, it was only a temporary one, removed by the king as soon as the necessity was removed, again a suggestion of King Edward's lack of trust in his cousin. Why did Richard of Gloucester put so much trust in such a character? Was it simply the fact that they shared royal blood, the only two royal dukes remaining?

The Chronicles of London, when talking of Buckingham during the 1483 usurpation crisis, emphasize his oratorical powers and great personal charm, enough in fact to persuade the good men of London to go along with Richard's seizure of the crown. But charm alone does not account for how he endeared himself to Richard, and a long intimacy and mutual liking for each other must have been needed for Richard to see the usefulness of the Duke's wealth and charisma, as it was suddenly, and probably unexpectedly, offered. Richard's mistake was in not seeming to understand the man's inherent weakness, nor his brother's reasons for leaving him out of power. Buckingham's famous boast that "there would be more Stafford knots than Warwick had had ragged staffs" Rous after the execution of Hastings should have warned Richard and his councillors of the duke's ambitions, especially as Hastings' fall had increased Buckingham's household and powers. Assuming we can trust Rous, that is! Richard's agonized postscript on learning of Buckingham's betrayal and rebellion cannot possibly be just a reaction to someone with whom he had an emotional involvement, but the agony of the betrayal of the man he had lifted from a pool of mediocrity at court into a position of power and influence, the sharer of his most intimate secrets and plans. As Edward had made his brother number two in the kingdom, so Richard had made his cousin Henry his own second in command. Richard felt the anger and humiliation of

such a total betrayal but one he never, even for a moment, doubted. Whereas Richard had stayed loyal to his brother, Buckingham had no such loyal feelings towards Richard, and seemingly little compunction at following his own personal agenda and instincts in betraying his cousin and ‘friend.’

There are many suggestions of an argument between King Richard and Buckingham at Gloucester during the king’s progress, but no clue as to what it was about. More says it was about the de Bohun inheritance but as Buckingham had already been granted these lands and titles this cannot have been the reason. Another suggestion is that it was to do with the fate of the sons of Edward IV, that Buckingham had murdered them without the king’s permission, and that on discovering this the king sent him packing to Brecon, where the silver-tongued Morton worked him up into a lather of rebellious fervour. Commynes states baldly that Buckingham “had put the children to death” (28) but their deaths without an official reason, and a state burial, as was the case with Henry VI, would cause more harm than good, though Ross says that only somebody of the alleged stupidity of Buckingham, with his ‘ambitious and volatile nature’ would have thought of doing it.(29)

There is also a story that he met with Margaret Beaufort, also one must recall, his aunt, on his way into Wales, and that she convinced the duke to rebel. But neither hold water as plans for the rebellion were well advanced before Buckingham joined it, and few of his Welsh retainers showed much interest in participating.

On November 2nd, after a disastrous campaign, and having been betrayed to the king by one of his own retainers, Henry Stafford the 2nd Duke of Buckingham was beheaded for treason in the market place, his pleading to speak with the king falling on deaf ears. His son followed a similar reckless path and in 1514 is on record as saying that were he sent to the Tower for offending the king he “would do what his father had wanted to do to Richard III, that is, kneel in front of him and then stab him” (30)

The Complete Peerage states the duke was buried in the Greyfriars, but a local tradition says he was buried in the yard of the Blue Boar Inn, which stood on the south side of the square, near the spot he had lost his head. In the 19th century during repairs some remains were found under the floor, head and right arm missing. If these are indeed Buckingham’s bones, the manner of their burial reflects the deep abhorrence felt for this man by the king he betrayed, the king who treated the likes of Rivers and Hastings with dignity after their executions. (31) It is perhaps fitting that the man who betrayed Richard III so completely should have no known memorial, as does the man he betrayed, the only king of England without a tomb.

Was Buckingham a stupid man? Perhaps. A good example is perhaps the manner of his capture. In the same way that the French King Louis XVI was captured while trying to leave the country “in secret” in a huge coach with a baggage train, his entire family, a guard of soldiers, and half a dozen servants, Buckingham was discovered when “hiding” in the home of one of his retainers, arousing suspicion “in consequence of the greater quantity of provisions than usual being carried thither.”(32)

Slowly, by piecing together the disparate pieces of the jigsaw, the figure of our particular Duke of Buckingham begins to come into focus, solidifying and forming into that of a recognisable human being, not a particularly pleasant one, outwardly handsome, urbane, charming, wealthy, but inwardly bitter and rotten, an ugly cripple in a velvet glove who cared nothing for anyone but himself. “A combination of frustration, fear, and ambition, led the Duke to support Richard of Gloucester, whose success in gaining the throne encouraged Buckingham to take part in the abortive coup d’etat of October 1483.” (33)

His son Edward would follow his father's example. But Henry VII, although reversing the attainder passed on Duke Henry by King Richard's one and only parliament, never allowed the son the power or influence King Richard had disastrously given his father. But like that father, the son was arrogant and selfish, treading a path of fierce, naked ambition, that, lacking intelligence and large and committed support could only lead, and in 1521 did lead, to the same fate as had his father's—death on the block.

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15. Jones, Michael K., *Richard the Third and His Rivals*, p.98.
16. Pollard, p.91.
17. Kendall, p.126.
18. Horrox, Rosemary, p.227.
19. Ross, p.136.
20. Jones, *Richard the Third and His Rivals*, Alan Sutton p.137.
21. Ross, p.215.
22. Hardyn, *Chronicle*, p.475.
23. Clive, p.256.
24. Horrox, p.87-88.
25. Jones, *Richard the Third and His Rivals*, p.46.
26. Kendall, p.164.
27. *C.P.R. 1467-77* p.178, Kendall, p.78, and Rous, John, *Historia Regum Anglicaee*, Oxford, 1745, p.216.
28. Commynes, p.397.
29. Ross, *Richard III*, p.71.
30. Vergil, Polydore, *Anglica Historia*, p.278.
31. Hampton, W.E., *Memorials of the Wars of the Roses*, Alan Sutton, 1979, p.196.
32. *Croyland Continuation*, p.568.
33. Horrox, p.1.

*Oh a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon,
If you listen to popular rumor;
From morning to night he's so joyous and bright,
And he bubbles with wit and good-humor.*
Gilbert & Sullivan, *The Yeoman of the Guard*

An Antic Disposition—Alan Gordon, St Martin's Minotaur, NY, 2004

The 13th century crime-fighters who (fictionally) make up the Interpol of that day, the professional Fool's Guild, has attracted the unwelcome attention of Pope Innocent III, and they are lying low in the Black Forest, where they have set up an Old Fools' Home and a training school for young fools. Our hero, Feste/Theopholis, and his wife are instructors there. But that is only the surrounding story. Their priest/jester, Father Gerald, begins to tell them the story of the jester Terrence of York, rechristened Yorrick by the boy Amleth, and the true history of the late unpleasantness in Denmark. And there was definitely something rotten in the kingdom of Denmark, or rather kingdoms of Denmark, as there are several rivals for the high kingship, so to speak. Does this begin to sound familiar? Make no mistake, these Danes are not Victor Borge nor my Grandpa Niels, but neither are they barbarian Vikings. They have a measure of cultivation; one even quotes Julius Caesar (not Shakespeare's Caesar). The author gives them a humanity that we can relate to.

A clever *jeu d'esprit* and a different take on the story of Hamlet, this is for those who have enjoyed Gordon's other Shakespearean-derived stories, or for anyone who enjoys exciting adventure. It's interesting to read the descriptions of some of the comedy and juggling routines of the Guild, though tiring. Imagine doing them! They must have been ready for the Old Fools' Home before they passed 50.

There's a hint at the end that the next story, *The Lark's Lament* (2007) may feature a clown named Touchstone, so one can hazard a guess as to what that is about. Other titles in this series are *Thirteenth Night* (1999), *Jester Leaps In* (2000), *A Death in the Venetian Quarter* (2002), *The Widow of Jerusalem* (2003), some of which have been reviewed in previous issues, and the two newest ones, *The Moneylender of Toulouse* (2008) and *The Parisian Prodigal* (2009).—*M.S.*

The Malevolent Comedy—Edward Marston, St. Martin's Minotaur, NYC, 2005

Lord Westfield's Men are in trouble again. The Puritans have managed to get the theaters shut down on Sundays, at least within the city of London, but the ones just outside the city limits are making profits every day. Even worse, their playwright, Edmund Hoode, has a severe case of writer's block. A new author, Saul Hibbert, shows up to save the day, but in many ways they would have done better without him, at least as far as morale goes.

At this point, the story takes on similarities with the time-honored plot of *The Play That Seems to be Cursed*. It starts off with a murder, de-escalates into a dog-fight and script-robbery, then re-escalates into kidnapping. However, Marston does come up with a surprise or two. The great charm of these books is watching the egos of the actors, and the many talents of Nicolas Bracewell, prompter, stage manager, detective, sword-fighter, pugilist – anybody who has been around the world with Sir Francis Drake has picked up all sorts of skills. He even goes onstage in this one, although it is in a grave emergency.

This doesn't pretend to be anything but good light reading, but it is that.—*M.S.*

MANY DIFFERENT TYPES of books come across this desk, and your reviewer tries to give them their due, in the spirit in which they are written. But she often feels a kinship

with such as Patch, Tarleton, Will Somers, and Gilbert's Family Fool. Although no one may expect it, I feel obligated to be entertaining, even amusing when appropriate. If not a comedienne, I can at least be an emcee, and introduce this quarter's books, in approximate order of seriousness.

*When your humor they flout,
You can't let yourself go;
But it does put you out
When a person says "Oh,
I've known that old joke from me cradle."*—*Ibid & passim*

Jest Upon Jest: A selection from the Jestbooks and collections of Merry Tales published from the Reign of Richard III to George III—John Wardroper, ed., Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1970

Shakespeare Jest-Books: Reprints of the early and very rare jest-books supposed to have been used by Shakespeare, Hendry Sotheran & Son, London 1896(?)

Vilain and Courtois: Transgressive Parody in French Literature of the 12th and 13th Centuries—Kathryn Gravdal, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1989

FROM TIME TO TIME, I have toyed with the idea of writing a learned monograph on *The Aggie Joke in Early Modern England*. If I ever do get around to that task, it will be researched, at least partly, from these books, which themselves are compilations. One of the earliest jokes to be printed is from Caxton, as follows:

...in a certain town a widower wooed a widow...a young woman, being servant with the widow...came to her mistress and said to her, 'I have heard say ...he is a perilous man, for he lay so oft and knew so much his other wife that she died thereof. And I am sorry thereof, that if ye should fall in like case.'

To which the widow answered, 'Forsooth, I would be dead! For there is but sorrow and care in this world.'

Not a knee-slapper, perhaps, but it does show that joke topic #1 now was #1 then, too. A few years later came *Demandes Joyous*, printed by Wynkyn de Worde, some naughty, some just silly:

How many calves' tails behoveth to reach from the earth to the sky?/No more but one, if it be long enough.

Why doth an ox or a cow lie? /Because she cannot sit.

Of interest to Ricardians is this story, from *Shakespeare Jest-Books*:

After kyng Richard the iii had vsurped the crowne of England, he, to staye and stablishe the people, that sore murmured against his dooynges, sent for fyue thousand men out of the North partes vp to London: and as he was mustrying of them in Thickettes feelde, one of the souldiers cam, and clappyng the kyng on the shulder, said: Diccon, Diccon, by the mass, ays blith that thaust kyng!

...the point being that those Northerners just didn't know how to behave, but also that they were solidly behind Richard.

But where are the Aggie jokes? Well, they seem to be Welsh jokes, which may be surprising, considering that a dynasty with a Welsh name was ruling England. Or maybe not. Anyway, here is the old chestnut about St. Peter getting all the Welshmen out of Heaven

by crying *cause bobbe* (roasted cheese), one about a Welsh chicken thief, a couple of others, and this one, partly translated into modern speech: A gentleman sent his Welsh servant to deliver a letter to the Chief Justice. At the Chief Justice's gate was an ape dressed in a little coat. The Welshman took off his hat and said: 'My master recommendeth him to my lord your father, and sendeth him here a letter.' The ape took the letter and opened it, 'mayking many mockes and moyes, as the propertyes of apes is to do.' The Welshmen return to his master and told him he had delivered the letter to the my lord Chief Justice's son,' who was at the gate in a furred coate' On being asked if there was any message, the servant replied that he gave him an answer, but it was either French or Latin, for he couldn't understand it. 'But, sir,' said he 'ye need not fear, for I saw in his countenance so much, that I warrant you he will do your errand to my lord his father.'

Why have I not written this monograph, aside from sheer inertia? Because analyzing humor seems to take most of the humor out of it, and analyzing humor academically takes all the rest. A brief example, from *Vilain and Courtois*:

If parody cannot be explained in aesthetic or political terms of lowness as opposed to highness, vulgarity as opposed to nobility, how then are we to speak of it? Perhaps it can be best understood in terms of the conspicuousness of its repetition of paradigms. The specificity of parody lies in the way it exhibits its relation to other texts: overt, systematic, and partial reproduction and transformation of literary models.

Yikes!—M.S.

*Comes a bishop, maybe
Or a solemn D.D.*

Treason—Meredith Whitford, BeWrite Books, UK, 2004

(You have to admit, bishops played a large part in Richard III's life and reign)

This is the story of Martin Robsart, kin of Richard of Gloucester, friends from their mutual childhood, through adulthood, through the Battle of Bosworth, ending as Martin finishes writing down his story in 1507. But it's more than just the story of the lives and emotional bonds of two young squires who grow to manhood in the battle-scarred England of the late 15th century. It's also the story of Innogen Shaxper, businesswoman, spy, accidental cat-breeder, Richard's sometime mistress and Martin's wife. (*Not* what it sounds like – although it is pretty complicated.) It's the story of Anne of Warwick, who may be frail physically, but has her father's temper, and his astute mind, just put to better purpose. Even George shows some good qualities, as well as some not so good, in his frequent appearances. There are dozens, if not scores, of major and minor characters, but so carefully are they delineated that there is little difficulty in keeping them straight. (If one does loose track, there is a useful cast list in the front of the book.)

Although this is a serious book on a serious subject, there is much humor and verve in the dialogue, as well as some of the ribbing that goes on in male friendship – female, too. Examples:

Your mother was merely speaking her mind. A short speech.

Martin gets seasick on damp grass.

...a dromedary [in the Tower menagerie] that looked remarkably like Doctor Morton.

Crosby place had a cat...he had acquired the name Tiddles. Kendal hated him and wouldn't allow him in the clerks' room. At night he shared his favors around – Tiddles, I mean, not Kendal..

It's said that necessity is the mother of invention; well, terror makes a kindly stepmother.

Ms. Whitford made the decision to use modern English in this novel, "because," she says, "once you start being 'medieval' where do you stop?" She may bend this rule once or twice, when she has characters use the familiar pronoun, still common in the 15th century, as in "I love thee." But she doesn't make the error of making her characters act like moderns. They had the same emotions we do, but were much freer about expressing them.

By the bye, have you ever wondered why Richard had to take a 'rich collar' from a 'certain lord' (in this story, Martin) to give to von Poppelau? It was because he was in mourning and not wearing jewelry. This is a good example of how Ms. Whitford interweaves fiction and fact.

THOUGH I HAVE reviewed this book (or someone has) in this column before, there has been a resurgence of interest, due to the discovery of Richard III's bones. Amazon rates it among the Top 100 Movers and Shakers!. I think you will enjoy this award-winning historical novel.—M.S.

*If your master is surly on getting up early,
And tempers are short in the morning,
An inopportune joke is enough to provoke
Him to give you, at once, a month's warning.*

The Heaven Tree—Edith Pargeter (Ellis Peters), Warner Books, 1993

First published in 1960, this book was reissued, probably to meet a demand created by fans of Brother Cadafel. The author describes this trilogy as her best work, which is high praise. Her skill in evoking atmosphere and delineating character with clarity and economy is unsurpassed.

The theme is the creation of a great work of art and, in the end, its disfiguration. The scope is epic and its nature is almost allegorical. There are three major characters. The artist is from the lower ranks of the nobility, dedicated to his art, feeling deeply for those individuals whom his peers see as resources to be used in acquiring material wealth; with a vision of his own creation that blinds him to reality; with courage to act on his own integrity. The courtesan is beautiful and whole of spirit, giving of her largesse where she will and withholding where she cannot give generously; making a contract based in honor as an equal to the aristocrat, in a society which held women, more especially courtesans, as inferior. The aristocrat is proud, severe and austere, regarding all those who come into his orbit as his servants; recognizing that his high standards lead to disappointment, but unable to moderate them; with noble ambitions which when thwarted leave cynicism and bitterness; with such rigidity of character that he can accept no visions other than his own, so that he destroys those whom he loves. The characters are personae of Greek tragedy with good and evil so blended that they cannot be separated, carrying within them seeds of their own destruction. These larger than life characters are beautiful, but they are too consistent to be real. They lack the fecklessness and flexibility of humanity and so they die.

Pargeter did her homework. The technical descriptions of building in the 13th century are detailed and accurate, giving an air of authenticity. Universal truths strike recognition in the reader's mind. The hero of the second and third books is the artist's son. He remains an independent character from the father, and he grows and develops before the reader's eyes. The end of the book speaks eloquently of the worth of human endeavor. *The Heaven Tree* is a massive and beautiful work—well worth reading. Many people besides the author

consider it her best. Perhaps due to a bias in favor of historical rather than fictional characters, I prefer *The Brothers of Gwynned*, but this would certainly rank very high.—Dale Summers

*It's a comfort to feel
If your partner should flit,
Though you suffer a deal,
They don't mind it a bit –*

The Last Days of Richard III and the Fate of His DNA: the book that inspired the dig—John Ashdown-Hill, The History Press, 2013

A must read for Ricardians.

In August of 2012 a team of archaeologists from the University of Leicester was digging in a social services parking lot with the idea of hopefully finding evidence of the Grey Friars Friary. Not only did they locate the friary, they found Richard III's remains.

In 2002, before the dig was ever considered, John Ashdown-Hill started his investigation of finding a living descendent from the female line of Richard's mother, Cecily Neville. The female line of descent is necessary because children inherit an exact copy of their mother's mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) but only the female passes this copy to the next generation. The author describes the process of finding a living descendent of one of Richard's sisters and of the mtDNA analysis. The mtDNA was now available for comparison to the remains' mtDNA. As exciting as this information (for me), this is present day science. This book is so much more.

Ashdown-Hill paints a fresh picture of a man who, despite terrible personal tragedies – his only legitimate son had died suddenly in April of 1484 and less than a year later his wife died after a long illness (possibly tuberculosis) – looking forward to remarrying and producing an heir and to a long reign as England's king. Although there can be no doubt that Richard genuinely grieved for his son and wife, he nevertheless was planning for the future. This refreshing image is different from what most historians and novelists have portrayed.

The reader also gets a sense of what daily life was like for Richard, what some of his duties were, and how he would execute them.

Ashdown-Hill disputes that Henry Tudor antedated his reign by one day, to August 21, 1485. Per Chapter 9, footnote 10:

This interpretation is based on Crowland, pp. 194-95. However, the relevant passage does not, in fact, say that Henry antedated his accession, and there is no evidence to support such a claim in the surviving acts of attainder against Richard III's supporters. (Pronay, N. & Cox, J., *The Crowland Chronicle Continuations 1459-1486*, London, 198 6)

My search of the digital edition of Parliamentary Rolls for Henry VII's first Parliament (November 1485) shows that Henry VII had antedated his reign by a day. In my e-mail correspondence with the author, I learned that the edition that contained the acts of attainder that he had researched at the British Library did not show this. He is currently investigating this new (to him) evidence, with the intent to amend the next edition.'

I found this book to be rich in detail and informative about Richard III's last 150 or so days, and about the role of DNA in confirming the remains. Not only is *Last Days* a significant historical reference, I found it a delight to read. John Ashdown-Hill achieved what is rarely seen in such a scholarly work—a reference that can be read from beginning

to end without compromising the facts. I can't recommend this book enough.—*Joan Szechman*

IN NO PARTICULAR degree of seriousness, a couple of postscripts:

IF YOU ARE WONDERING who Patch, Tarleton, and Will Somers were, read *Fools and Jesters at the English Court*, by John Southworth, available in paperback, hardback and Kindle from Amazon and others. And if you are an aficionado of both funnies and royalty, read *The Oxford Book of Royal Anecdotes*, edited by Elizabeth Longford (Oxford, 1989). The editor differentiates between 'funny/ha-ha' and 'funny/peculiar,' though including both. Admittedly, the further back in history one goes (and she goes back to Boudicca), the more are in the second category. Even in the first, royals are more often funny inadvertently, though the inside story of the intruder in the Queen's bedroom does have elements of farce. But some do get off a few zingers now and then. Here's the Queen Mum to a South African who said 'he could never quite forgive the British for having conquered his country:' "I understand perfectly. We feel very much the same in Scotland."

*There are one or two rules—
Half a dozen, maybe*

OH, ALL RIGHT. Since we're on the subject of Royals, one more review: *The Twelve Clues of Christmas*, by Rhys Bowen (Berkley Prime Crime, NY, 2012) This is the story of Georgiana Rannoch, Queen Victorias's great-granddaughter, her non-royal Granddad (a retired copper), and her main squeeze, Darcy O'Mara, plus assorted British eccentrics. Not to be taken seriously for a moment, but enjoyable.

FINALLY, a *mea culpa* and apology from Anne Easter Smith.

I want to thank Dale Summers for a great review of my last book *Queen by Right* in March's Register. Although the book has been out for two years, it is nice to know someone cares enough to review it. Cecily's was a thrilling story to tell, and it took me three years to research and writes it.

As Dale kindly points out, I am meticulous in my research, and thus I was horrified to read that I had cited Ludlow as Richard's birthplace. I was certain she was mistaken, but she was not! What was I thinking, you might ask? And how did I not catch this most egregious of errors in the countless times I edited and re-edited the manuscript? And with more than 35,000 copies out there... only Dale has caught the mistake! [I didn't catch it either – only Ms. Hawkeye, aka Dale, did. M.S.]

Upon reviewing the passage, I sort of understand why it happened. In that particular 'flash forward' (a structure Dale questioned, and which I used to telescope years and events that could move the story along to a more compelling point) I described the disastrous march Richard of York made from Ludlow to Dartford in February 1452 to confront King Henry in the matter of removing the duke of Somerset from the king's council. The attempt failed, and, somehow avoiding arrest, Richard returned to Ludlow, where he had left Cecily. Conveniently, I skipped over the summer when the couple must have gone to Fotheringhay, and that was my mistake. I forgot to move them!

If I have offended or disappointed, I apologize. As one who has been steeped in all things Ricardian for more than 40 years, you can bet I know where Richard was born—and even what he ate for breakfast!—*Anne Easter Smith*

WHICH PROVES THAT somebody does read this column, and not just for giggles!

ToC

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of three spoofs from the author of *Treason* (reviewed here in *Ricardian Reviews*). In her review, Myrna Smith commented on how Whitford blended humor into a serious novel. Having gotten a taste of Whitford's humor, *Treason* has risen to the top of my leaning tower of TBR.

Elizabeth's Epistles

© 1984, 2013 Meredith Whitford

Grafton Regis, Michaelmas, A.D. 1463

Dear Tony,

So lovely to receive your letter. That is two this year! I am glad you haven't quite forgotten us all here.

How dare you say I'm exaggerating? I notice we don't see you here these days! You just try living here with 10 brothers and sisters and my two boys and Mummy and Daddy and hardly a bean between the lot of us. All very well to say why don't I remarry: who, pray? I'll never meet anyone stuck away here! Darling, do use your influence (or your wife's; you must have married her for something!) and get me a post at Court. Anything would do. Daddy's useless, loses his head over every little thing, so you're the only one I can ask. You say Warwick's made up the king's mind, so there'll be a new Queen soon and she'll need ladies-in-waiting and I did the job for Queen Margaret and I speak French. Do try.*

If you don't believe it's boring here: the year's high point was little Peggy Beaufort dropping in the other day. Full of herself for having snared a Stafford—wonder she took the uncle and not the nephew, Harry Buckingham's only 12 years younger than her and what's 12 years? He's loaded too. Peggy had that weedy brat of hers with her. A real mummy's boy; he'll never make old bones. For all Peggy's ambition, he'll be lucky to get a clerk's post somewhere. Oh and you'll like this: now she's a Stafford, Peggy's taken to calling her brat "Tydr" or something! The pretension! I called him ap Edmund and always shall. That put them back in their box!

Tony, if you can't get me a place at Court do at least try to do something for Tom and Richard, they're running wild here. Pages in some good household or something? Daddy's all for sending them to school, he suggests that place near Windsor, old King Harry's pet project, but frankly I hear very queer reports of the place; I doubt it'll last must longer, anyway. I'd sooner go out scrubbing floors to pay for a good private tutor; it'll do the boys' prospects no good to have gone to some scruffy little charity school with burgesses' sons, Heaven knows what they'd pick up. Do try, darling, they're your nephews, after all, and if you don't help, who will?

Your loving sister,

Beth

* PS, on second thoughts, better not mention Queen Margaret.



Grafton Regis, February A.D. 1464

Dear Tony,

Well, thanks for trying, but what possessed you to ask Warwick of all people about a job? Honestly—men!! Are you still spending all your time writing that silly old book? Why do you bother? The cost of copying is so prohibitive that only Bibles and Mysteries ever break even. Also I've asked around and no one's heard of Dick Sayers, so who's going to be interested in his Philosophies? Are you sure you don't mean Dick Whittington or someone? Or isn't there a St Dorothy of Sayers or something? If you must write, try a

Mystery, why not? You could use a nom-de-plume—in fact, Daddy says you must—Matilda? Or Antonia would be good. Or something like Brown. Then ~~when~~ if it flops no one need know it's you, if you take my meaning.

Tony dear, do try to come home for a while soon—apart from being bored rigid I'm rather worried about Mummy. I think being so broke has turned her a bit you-know-what, and she says she'd die rather than crawl to the York lot. So she's got all these money-making schemes, for instance making face-creams and scent, which she says she can get the carriers to sell on their rounds; she's even talking of renting a shop in Avon to sell them! Still, I suppose that's better than the French cookery book idea—"Jacquetta's 101 Ways with Mushrooms". We were all so ill after sampling her last recipe; I'm sure she used those funny black mushrooms from the forest! And then there's the wax modeling—she said she was making Daddy a chess set, but it looked rather odd the way the little figures flopped over if she didn't prop them up with pins. She's truly getting a bit batty. Time of life, I suppose. After all, she is getting on: très gris mère these days.

Fearsome family row last night about where to go for our summer hols! Tom wants Dorset or Hastings, anywhere with a nice shore to romp on, he says. Catherine whined for Buckingham or Wales, while John held out for Norfolk. (Isn't it very flat, Norfolk?) And so on and so forth for hours! Suppose it'll be Scarborough again, freezing cold and très gris mer.

Mummy's knitting you an undershirt from her goats' hair. Pretty itchy, I'd have thought, but you know what she's like about something warm next the skin.

Must go and help with supper—chicken yet again! There seems to be some sort of fowl pest about—every month, around full moon, all our black roosters die.

Just to finish—must tell you this, you'll roar. Had washed my hair the other day and took the boys for a stroll in the forest while it dried. It's hunting season, of course, so Whittlebury F. is like rush hour on London Bridge. Anyway, was minding own business when up came this young chap; very good looking if you like that blue-eyed blond type, though much too tall. He stopped to chat and I must say I was glad I had the boys with me because he was a leetle forward, I thought—a roving eye, you know the sort. But as soon as I told him who I was he became much more respectful; one could see he'd been quite well brought up. Years younger than me, but it's nice to know an old widow lady can still be admired!

Do visit soon and we'll talk about the Mummy problem.

Yours ever, \

Beth.

~~~~

G. Regis, Feb. 1464

Dear T,

Are you sure???

B.

~~~~

Grafton Regis, Feb. 1464

To M. Gentile, Haberdasher and Silk Merchant, Candlewick St, London
Sirs,

Please dispatch by next carrier: 15 ells blue satin, 10 ells black velvet; 2 ells gold brocade with white rose pattern; 4 prs silk stockings; one gold belt to fit 22" waist, and 20 ells black silk sheeting.

Fwd account to A. Woodville, Lord Scales, Westminster.

I remain, sirs,
Yours etc,
Elizabeth, Dame Grey.



Home, 10 April 1464.

Darling Tony,

Not a word to anyone, but be here without fail for evening of 30th inst. We have something rather special on that night.

I must say Eddie is a sweetie. Rather immature, of course, but all he needs is to settle down with a good woman. He gets on v. well with everyone, loves the children.

By the way, I don't know what you may have heard, but all that happened was that Eddie was showing me his Swiss Army knife out in the garden. It has 116 attachments!!

Nasty fright at supper last week. (Mummy's chicken-and-mushroom pie again; poor Eddie, it doesn't agree with him at all.) Anyway, Daddy was droning away (Eddie bored stiff, but such nice manners!) and then, just as Daddy introduced Alan, our butler from Shrewsbury, Eddie choked and nearly suffocated! Once he'd had a little lie-down with some of Mummy's cordial, and sent a courier off with some urgent message, he was all right, but it gave us all such a turn!

Don't forget the 30th!!

Love,
Bethie



Westminster, November 1464

I am instructed by Her Grace The Queen Elizabeth to thank Mistress Stafford for her Kind Felicitations, and to express Her Grace's Regrets that there is no Position at Court for Mistress Stafford or her son. Her Grace is, however, willing to use her influence to obtain a place for Mistress Stafford's son Harry at that very good charity school near Slough. However, Her Grace agrees that some school in France or Brittany may be the better choice, for young Master Harry will find that speaking only Welsh to be a disadvantage in his future career.



Westminster, A.D. 1465

To the Most High and Mighty Prince George, Duke of Clarence

I am instructed to advise Your Grace that Her Majesty the Queen fails to find any humour in the suggestion that her uncle Lord Jaques be appointed Lord Privy Seal.



Westminster, 1466

Dear Tony,

No, Eddie doesn't mind a bit about the baby being a girl, but that astrologer chappie's looking for another job!

Well, the churching went off well enough, although the banquet was the most frightful bore! Eddie's sister Margaret kept stumbling all over the place while she danced, she really is a clumsy girl! I had shocking laryngitis, couldn't speak a word all day. Mummy's arthritis was playing up, she was stuck there on her knees for hours, poor old thing!

Yes, Warwick is just so tedious! Good thing he's overseas most of the times. Would you credit it, we sent him a tun of Burgundy as a goodwill gesture and he sent it back! Worcester is also becoming far too full of himself, quite saucy—but useful.

No other news,

Yr loving sister,
Elizabeth R



Westminster, June, A.D. 1476

To the Most High and Mighty Prince George, Duke of Clarence

We are perturbed that we see you and Her Grace your wife so rarely at Court these days, and trust that we will have the pleasure of your company at our next reception. We have it in mind to request the Duchess to take up a post as First Lady of the Bedchamber.

We are distressed to hear of the ill-health of our servant Doctor Stillington, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and thank you for your advice that his age is causing his powers to fail. Your report of his referring to Us as “Queen Eleanor” is a grave trouble to Us, and you be assured that One will do all in One's power to urge the King to find him some less demanding post, or perhaps to retire him with a suitable reward for all his past services.

We would be most honoured to stand Godmother to your forthcoming child, and hope that the new maid, Mistress Twynho, whom One recommended, is proving satisfactory. You may be easy about the grants of lands which you mention, for One has referred the matter to his Gracious Majesty your Brother for his consideration. Meanwhile, please accept with our compliments the butt of Malmsey which accompanies this letter.

Your sister,

Elizabeth R. (Beth)

ToC



William B and Maryloo Spooner Schallek Memorial Graduate Fellowship Awards:

This endowed fund was established in 2004 to honor the Schalleks, who were members of the Richard III Society and left \$1.4 million to the Society to create annual research awards for graduate students. Each year, (5) \$2,000 dissertation awards and (1) \$30,000 dissertation fellowship are to be granted. This fund is known as “Big Schallek” and is administered by the Medieval Academy of America. The following report details an awarded study.

Schallek Fellowship Progress Report

Kristi W. Bain
kwbain@u.northwestern.edu

Dissertation: *From Community Conflict to Collective Memory: Lived Religion and the Late Medieval Parish Church*

Department/Program: Religious Studies/Medieval Christianity

University: Northwestern University

TO DATE, I have accomplished the following goals set forth in my fellowship application:

Between the time of my fellowship application in October 2011 through December 2011 I conducted dissertation research in England. During this short trip, I spent most of my research time at the Essex Record Office gathering sources for my case study of the 1378 monastic-parochial conflict at Hatfield Broad Oak. I also gave an invited talk to the Network for Parish Research at the University of Warwick in mid-November. I also spent

two weeks at the Wymondham Abbey Muniment Room, where I researched antiquarian documents and continued photographing original documents, which I had begun during a short research trip in 2010. I completed my two-month stay in England by gathering more documents on the Hatfield Broad Oak case study at the British Library and The National Archives in London.

Upon my return to the States in late December 2011 through April 2012, I organized and transcribed document photos brought back from England; wrote a colloquium paper, which I distributed to all faculty and students in the Religious Studies Department and presented in a workshop in April; and participated in the Medieval Studies lecture series and Latin workshop throughout the academic year. I also prepared two talks that I gave in May 2012 at the University of Warwick's Parish Studies Today Symposium. I also used that time to conduct research in Norwich and London. During the summer before my fellowship tenure began, I revised my colloquium paper and Warwick presentations for article submission to the *Journal of Religion* and I am awaiting the editors' decision.

I arrived in England for my fellowship tenure in late August 2012. I am residing in Norwich, which conveniently located for access to the main archives for my dissertation's centerpiece case study of Wymondham Abbey. I am still in the process of reading over 300 wills from the parish of Wymondham proved between the 1380s and 1540s, which are located in Norwich at the Norfolk Record Office. At Wymondham Abbey's archive (just 10 miles outside of Norwich), I have examined more closely the medieval documents I photographed last year, have found new antiquarian documents, and have spent a good deal of time interviewing parishioners and heritage consultants about how they remember and write about the medieval conflict and medieval religious history in general. These interviews have led to many new contacts, including Jennie Hawks, the Director of the Churches Discovery Project, Diocese of Norwich, who has taken me to churches throughout Norfolk to introduce me to local historians and heritage societies who endeavor to preserve and promote their churches' medieval pasts. These trips and interviews have also produced new case studies--I have now added the shared church of Binham, Norfolk, to the project, and my work at the record office has produced some interesting medieval sources that serve to clarify the Binham conflict as well as the conflict at Wymondham. I have also become involved with the medieval history and art history departments at the University of East Anglia, and the medievalist faculty and post-graduate students there have warmly welcomed me to their lectures and even to monthly "church crawls," during which we travel to late medieval churches throughout the county of Norfolk.

My research also has taken me to the British Library, National Archives, and London Metropolitan Archives in London each month. I have also attended lectures by English Heritage and the Churches Conservation Trust during these London research trips. Moreover, I have just returned from a week-long research trip to Sherborne and Shaftesbury, Dorset, and have confirmed that there is a wealth of sources available to continue with these case studies, which prior to this time I had only examined through secondary sources. The Vicar of Sherborne Abbey and his wife kindly invited me to stay with them and introduced me to local historians as well as gave me contacts in small archives that I never would have found without their local knowledge.

Finally, during these three months I have balanced my research with dissertation writing. Specifically, I have created an annotated chapter outline based on what I have found thus far and have also tried to write 1000 words a day, which has served to clarify my research findings and will also be added to the dissertation once I begin writing in earnest. BETWEEN NOW and the conclusion of my fellowship tenure, I will do the following:

I will complete my research at the Wymondham Abbey Muniment Room in early January, which will give me more time to focus on reading late medieval wills and deeds of Wymondham and Binham parishioners at the record office in Norwich. I will also travel to Binham in January to spend a day with local historians who have offered to discuss the medieval bell conflict. Plans are also in the works for another trip to Dorset in late January/early February and also in April. I also will spend a full week in London sometime in April to gather more documents at the National Archives and British Library, which will become necessary as I delve further into the Binham and Dorset case studies. I also plan to start writing my dissertation in late February/early March. Finally, I will return to the States in May to present a paper at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This paper will be based on my interviews with local historians and examination of how these historians and nineteenth-century antiquarians have shaped the archives and histories of the medieval conflicts.

ToC



New American Branch Website

Lisa Holt-Jones, Webmaster

This winter has seen feverish work on manually transferring masses of information and documentation from the 'old' Richard III American Branch website to a new & much easier to maintain website. Type into your browser r3.org and you will automatically be sent to the new site, with three new banners that randomly rotate through three images: Richard & Anne and Richard alone (from the stained glass window at Cardiff Castle), and Richard's facial reconstruction from Richard's skull excavated in August-September 2012 from the site of the Greyfriar's priory. The main links—some old and a few new—are immediately beneath the banner.

The new site is more Richard focused, with a new Bio and Timeline and less Shakespeare focused—after all why should we perpetuate the myth?!

With all the events going on in the UK recently we added a specific News & Current Events page, which is much easier to keep up to date. We also updated the Battle of Bosworth page, following the re-location of the Battle site.

The Members Only section still has the same password as the old site, however if you wish to access a page beneath this link you will need to re-enter the password—which is a feature of the website creation tool. This section still holds the library lists and the *Ricardian Register* plus the UK published *Ricardian Recorder* and forms for maintaining your membership.

The On-line Library—Text & Essays link has a lot of sub-pages! So many that they trail off your screen... In order to scroll through these, hover your mouse over the list and then use your up and down key to see the entire list. This will be tidied up later in the year – time permitting!

If you have any suggestions, need any assistance or find any errors on the site – then please don't hesitate to drop me a line webmaster@r3.org

Enjoy your new website.

ToC

2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RICHARD III SOCIETY, AMERICAN BRANCH

September 27-29

DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown

301 W. Franklin Street

Richmond, VA 23220

804-644-9871

richmonddowntown.doubletree.com



On to Richmond !

We have an outstanding program lined up for you: Professor John Ashdown-Hill will be talking to us on the evidence strands for the identification of Richard III's remains. His talk will be *live* from England via Skype. Professor David Routt of the University of Richmond will be sharing his researches in the social and economic life of the manor of the abbey of St. Edmund's during the fourteenth and fifteenth century. And our own Susan Higginbotham will enlighten us on the Woodville family—the subject of her forthcoming book.

We've also arranged visits to Agecroft Hall and Virginia House, two Tudor mansions which were disassembled in England, brought over and reassembled in Virginia. Both have lots of period features and furnishings. Admission and transportation from the hotel is included in your Registration Fee.

Do you have medieval costume? You're encouraged to wear it for the traditional gala Ricardian Banquet on Saturday evening—always an enjoyable time!

Of course, we will have cash bar social hours on Friday and Saturday evenings—a great chance to meet and compare notes with your fellow Ricardians. There will also be the traditional silent raffle and, of course, the sales table. (If you have any Ricardian items to donate for the silent raffle, please contact any board member).

A block of rooms has been reserved at the DoubleTree at the rate of \$114 per night plus 13% room tax. Please contact the hotel directly to make your room reservations prior to **Friday, September 6, 2013** as this room rate cannot be held beyond that date. Identify yourself as a "Richard III Society member" when making your reservations.

The Registration Fee is higher this year partly because of increased costs and partly because the Society is no longer able to partially subsidize the AGM as has been done in the past. We hope you will understand why we had to do this.

There has never been a better time to be a Ricardian, so start making your plans to join your fellow Ricardians in Richmond in September!

REGISTRATION FORM

AGM Registration Fee includes Friday reception, all Saturday morning events, Saturday lunch, Agecroft Hall/Virginia House tours, including transportation, Saturday pre-Banquet reception.

All conference Attendees: \$120 each Please send in your Registration Form by September 6.

Number of conference attendees: _____ (times \$120/attendee) Total \$ _____

Ricardian Banquet, Saturday evening: \$38 per attendee (include guests not registered for events)

All selections include a Caesar Salad starter and Carrot Cake dessert. Please select entrée(s)

Grilled Flat Iron Steak with wild mushroom demi glaze* No. _____ \$ _____

Herb marinated chicken with mushroom wine garlic sauce No. _____ \$ _____

Vegetarian Risotto No. _____ \$ _____

Total (number of selections times \$38) \$ _____

* For an idea of what flat iron steak is, see this recipe on the Food Network:

(<http://tinyurl.com/2dng3hr>)

Fundraiser Breakfast: (guests may attend) No. _____ @ \$30 ea. = \$ _____

Raffle Tickets: 6 for \$5 \$ _____

(must be present or have made prior arrangements for pick-up of prizes in order to win)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

**Please fill in this form and make your check out to: The Richard III Society,
American Branch**

Mail to:

Richard III Society 2013 AGM
c/o Jonathan Hayes
5031 SW Hollyhock Circle
Corvallis, OR 97333

Go to the 2013 AGM page to download this Registration form and 2013 Brochure at The American Branch website (r3.org).

SCHEDULE: Workshops and Events

Friday, September 27:

- 4:15pm: Board meeting, Richmond Room
- 6:00 to 10:00 pm: Welcome Reception in the Richmond Room. Registration packets can be picked up at this time. Sales table open. Cash bar and cheese hors d'oeuvres.

Saturday, September 28:

- 7:15 to 8:15 am: Continental breakfast buffet in the Richmond Room. Registration and sales table open.
- 8:30 am: Professor John Ashdown-Hill will speak on the evidences for Richard III (via Skype connection from England). PowerPoint presentation (Richmond Room)
- 9:45 am: Professor David Routt will speak on the social and economic life of St. Edmund's Abbey, 1300 – 1500. PowerPoint presentation (Richmond Room)
- 11:00 am: Business meeting. Financial report, Officers' reports, 2014 AGM location, individual Society members' input.
- 12:00 noon: Lunch; sales table open. (Richmond Room)
- 1:00 pm: Transportation pick-up for Agecroft Hall/Virginia House tour.
- 5:00 pm: Return to Hotel.
- 6:30 pm: pre-Banquet reception, Richmond Room. Cash bar and cheese hors doeuvres. Raffle drawing.
- 8:00 pm: Ricardian Banquet, Richmond Room (medieval dress encouraged, otherwise business casual)

Sunday, September 29:

- 8:00 am: Fundraiser Breakfast. Susan Higginbotham will speak on the Woodville family, the subject of her forthcoming book.

The Speakers:

Professor John Ashdown-Hill

Author, lecturer, historian and linguist, Prof. Ashdown-Hill was the leader of genealogical research and historical advisor on the "Looking for Richard III Project". He established Richard's mtDNA, which work "arose out of the need to identify some remains in Belgium which were thought to be those of Richard's sister, Margaret of York". He has a B.A. degree from the University of East Anglia, and M.A. and PhD degrees from the University of Essex. He has published extensively on Ricardian-era subjects.

Professor David Routt

Assistant Professor of History, University of Richmond. He has a B.A. and M.A. degree from the University of Kentucky and a PhD from Ohio State University. He is currently working on a study of the economic and social history of the estate held by the abbot of St. Edmund's, a major English Benedictine house, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Susan Higginbotham

Susan Higginbotham's first nonfiction book, *The Woodvilles*, will be published by the History Press in October. She is the author of five novels set in medieval and Tudor England. Susan houses the American Branch's research library in her home in Apex, North Carolina, where she lives with her husband, children, two cats, and two dogs.

Agecroft Hall/Virginia House

Agecroft Hall was built in Lancashire, England in the late fifteenth century and was for many years the home of the Langley and Dautesey families. Falling into disrepair, it was sold at auction in 1925. It was purchased by Thomas C. Williams, Jr., disassembled, shipped to Virginia and painstakingly reassembled in Richmond. The Great Hall, Great Parlour and other rooms are extensively furnished with authentic period pieces. The gardens are reproductions of period gardens.

Virginia House was originally the Priory of the Augustinian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in Warwick and was acquired by Thomas (Hawkins) Fisher at the Dissolution and rebuilt as a Tudor manor house. Alexander and Virginia Weddell bought the house at a demolition sale in 1925, and had it dismantled and shipped to Richmond where it was rebuilt. The west wing is a replica of Sulgrave Manor, ancestral home of George Washington, and the center section is a reproduction of the Priory. The interior decoration is period, much of it being original.

The Hotel:

The DoubleTree is in the heart of the historic district, eight miles from Richmond International Airport. Check-in is 4 pm, checkout 12 noon. There is complimentary Wi-Fi. On-site parking is available. (\$18/day). Richmond is served by two Amtrak stations. You would need to take a taxi to the hotel—cost approx. \$20. Taxi cost from the airport is approximately \$30.

Driving directions from the airport:

Follow I-64 west to Richmond.

Take the Fifth Street exit to Downtown Coliseum.

Right on Broad Street at third traffic light.

Left on Belvidere Street at 7th light.

Left on Franklin Street at second light.

Three blocks to hotel on right.

[ToC](#)

Sites of Interest

The following repeats the sample listing of sites of interest in and around Richmond, Virginia that was presented in the March *Register*.



Sites in Richmond:

Agecroft Hall—Recreated from the original Agecroft Hall that was located near Manchester, UK see website at agecrofthall.com/house.html

Virginia House—Constructed from the materials of a sixteenth century English manor house see website at vahistorical.org/vh/vh_house_main.htm

Agecroft Hall is next door to Virginia House.

Civil War—The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, see website at tredegar.org/

There are too many Civil War museums and battle sites to list here, for a more complete listing see Civil War attractions website: tinyurl.com/b8xl7dv (link shortened from 66 characters)

And don't forget, we will be in the heart of barbecue country. One BBQ restaurant that I'll be going to is Extra Billy's, website: extrabillys.com/

Sites within driving distance from Richmond:

Monticello—Thomas Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, VA is about 70 miles from Richmond and can be reached by car in about an hour and fifteen minutes: monticello.org/

Mount Vernon—George Washington's home in Alexandria, VA is about 100 miles from Richmond and can be reached by car in about two hours. See website at mountvernon.org/

Colonial Williamsburg—Williamsburg is about 50 miles from Richmond and can be reached by car in less than an hour: history.org/index.cfm

Jamestown Settlement—Jamestown, VA is about 60 miles from Richmond and can be reached by car in about an hour. historyisfun.org/jamestown-settlement.htm

Washington D. C. is just over 100 miles from Richmond and can be reached by train.

Civil War sites:

Appomattox Court House—about 94 miles from Richmond and can be reached by car under two hours, website at nps.gov/apco/index.htm

See also Civil War Traveler (civilwartraveler.com/EAST/VA/) for other sites of interest too numerable to list here.

Some locations, such as many Civil War sites, are part of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands system. If you or someone you are with is over 62, you can get a senior lifetime pass for \$10, which admits up to four adults on one pass. A standard annual pass is \$80/year. For more details, go to the National Park Service website here: nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm

ToC

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From the Editor

Joan Szechtman

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have volunteered to fill open positions. However, we still need volunteers for treasurer and web content manager. Our need for a volunteer to be treasurer is of the utmost importance. Our current treasurer, Diane Hoffman, whose term expired at the end of 2012, has agreed to continue for a limited time until a replacement can be found because we cannot function without a treasurer. If any member reading this has some accounting knowledge and computer skills (need someone with internet access), please contact Diane at treasurer@r3.org. In addition, we are still seeking a Web Content Manager (assists the Webmaster—for more information contact Lisa Holt-Jones at webmaster@r3.org).



Message from Nita Musgrave, Chapters' Advisor:

I am the new chapters advisor. This position has not been filled for several years so I will try to make it up as I go along.

If you need advice I am here. That is especially true of people who are thinking of starting a chapter. If you are thinking of organising an AGM, I can help there too, since I have chaired two AGM's in the past ten years. I will be contacting you (your contact person) during the summer and asking for a report on the year's activities. We are interested in knowing what everyone is doing, and this is sometimes a help for other chapters who are looking for ideas.

I hope many of you are planning to attend the AGM this year in Richmond. If so I look forward to meeting you there.



Please welcome our new Chapters Advisor, Nita Musgrave.



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York Minster stained glass of Richard III's coat of arms.

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[2013 AGM booklet starts on page 27.]

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