

# Ricardian Register



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## Bosworth 1485

### How Does a King End Up Buried Under a Parking Lot?

John Erath

In September 2012, an odd story hit news wires around the world. A skeleton found under a parking lot in central England proved to be that of Richard III, the last king of England to be killed in battle, made famous by Shakespeare as a tyrant and murderer. In the months that followed, more information on the remains emerged, revealing that Richard was not the evil, deformed figure of Shakespeare's play, but a man of average height, with curvature of the spine, intestinal parasites and horrific battle wounds.<sup>1</sup> Thanks to modern forensics, we now have a clearer picture of the man behind the legend that has led to a reassessment of his rule, showing Richard to have been a promising king and able administrator. But what sort of leader ends up under a parking lot? Although a capable strategist, he did not fit the character of Shakespeare's villain who could "set the murderous Machiavel to school."<sup>2</sup> An analysis of Richard's actions during the 1485 rebellion shows his decision to meet his enemies in battle personally was consistent with his political goals and interests, and with contemporary military practice. On August 22, 1485, he fought at Bosworth Field under favorable terms but managed to lose the battle, his crown and his life to the future Henry VII, founder of the Tudor dynasty. Over 500 years later, the events of that day are somewhat obscure, but it seems clear that Richard's defeat can be attributed to key assumptions that proved wrong, placing trust in unreliable allies and not concentrating the full forces available to him before the battle.

The Battle of Bosworth was the final major engagement of a generation of dynastic conflict in England commonly (and inaccurately) referred to as "The Wars of the Roses," a term invented after the fact. From 1452 on, various descendants of Edward III fought for the throne with the result that royal succession came to be determined by conquest rather than dynastic rules. The various conflicts were fought mainly by feudal forces, with some mercenaries, under the command of noblemen. However, the armies of 15<sup>th</sup> century England were composed of professionals, recruited from towns and feudal estates, not mobs of armed peasants.<sup>3</sup> The Hundred Years War had left England with a large number of skilled veterans and experienced commanders. The wars in France also shaped how the nobles contesting the English throne made strategic decisions. While Medieval European wars often focused on sieges of fortified places, English leaders had a tradition of winning pitched battles against France and therefore generally sought decisive victory on the battlefield. The costs of paying and supplying professional armies also imposed limitations on campaign durations and further motivated commanders toward battle.

English successes in France had been won on the power of the longbow, but by the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, longbows slowly gave way to firearms, lethal over distances, without requiring the lifestyle commitment of archery. By 1485, including at Bosworth, archers had taken on the role of skirmishers, especially when opposing armies both fielded such troops.<sup>4</sup> In his early 16<sup>th</sup> century account of Bosworth, historian Polydore Vergil wrote that "They making suddenly great shouts, assaulted the enemy first with arrows, ... then with hand-strokes."<sup>5</sup> Early field artillery was also available, although more commonly used in siege warfare. At Bosworth, most of both armies consisted of infantry, heavily armored men-at-arms organized into companies of about 100 men. Fifteenth century armies used cavalry primarily for scouting. The chivalric idea of mounted knights charging the enemy still remained a tactical option, but only when missile troops who could easily target such formations had been neutralized. Military leaders learned strategic and tactical concepts from translations of the late Roman writer Vegetius, whose *De Rei Militari* had been turned

into a set of English language maxims entitled *Knyghthode and Bataile* in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century. Richard III owned a copy of this work, which also contained instructions for training and maintaining military forces.<sup>6</sup> Because *Knyghthode and Bataile* only considered military means as the basis for strategy in times of wars, most 15<sup>th</sup> century leaders focused their strategic decisions on the military means available.

When Edward IV died in 1483, his brother Richard used doubts as to the legitimacy of Edward's young children to take the throne as Richard III.<sup>7</sup> He had the support of much of the elite, who likely saw Richard as an experienced leader and preferable to a child as a ruler. However, almost from the outset, Richard's rule faced threats from disaffected nobles who had supported Henry VI, whom Edward deposed in 1471. The removal of kings had become the norm in England; from 1399 to 1485, four out of six monarchs lost their positions by force and another nearly did so. To prosecute the wars against France, English kings had come to rely on the nobility to raise trained warriors. When these forces were not needed against a foreign enemy, they remained available as instruments of domestic politics. At first, opposition to Richard was led by his former ally, the Duke of Buckingham, then, after Buckingham's execution for treason in 1483, coalesced around Henry Tudor, the Earl of Richmond, who landed in Wales from France on August 1, 1485.

According to histories, such as those of Vergil and Thomas More, written under the patronage of Tudor kings, Henry's arrival produced an outpouring of popular support against the supposed tyranny of Richard's rule, somewhat undermined by the relatively small army he was able to raise. When looking at the events of 1485, it is important to consider that, in the years after Bosworth, all the accounts were written with the aim of legitimizing Tudor rule, especially by smearing Richard. The most notorious of the accusations against Richard is that he had his young nephews, Edward IV's sons, murdered in the Tower of London. While no actual evidence of the boys' fate exists, it is supposed that Richard would have wanted to eliminate other possible claimants to the throne. However, there is no evidence that there were even rumors of the boys' murder until after Richard's death, and another nephew, the son of Richard's elder brother George, received Richard's protection and was even named his heir.<sup>8</sup> When Henry VII made his legal case for the kingship after Bosworth, he accused Richard of the conventional tyranny but did not mention murder.

In evaluating Richard as a strategist, it is important to consider his record as a leader. During his brother's campaign to regain the throne, Richard, at age nineteen, commanded a wing of his brother's army at the battle of Tewkesbury in 1471. He was then appointed to rule the northern third of the country for the remainder of Edward IV's reign and did so well enough that northern England remained a center of opposition to Henry VII for years after his accession. While ruler of the north, Richard was appointed to lead an army against the Scots in 1482. As his brother's lieutenant he was regarded, in the words of Francis Bacon, as "a prince in military virtue approved, . . . likewise a good law maker for the ease and solace of the common people."<sup>9</sup> While king for only two years, Richard nevertheless compiled a strong record as a ruler by promoting trade, improving the judiciary and taking steps to limit corruption.<sup>10</sup> The city of York publicly memorialized Richard as a beloved king upon his death, even at the risk of angering the new monarch.<sup>11</sup> The king who formulated a strategy to respond to the invasion of a rival in the summer of 1485 was an experienced civil and military leader with a consistent record of accomplishment.

Evaluation of Richard's decision making, or indeed any aspect of the Bosworth campaign, is difficult for modern historians because there are scant contemporary sources. Most of the accounts that formed the basis for most histories of the period were written a generation later with the specific political goal of strengthening the legitimacy of Tudor rule. Just as most of the first generation of English language histories of World War I were

written to justify the sacrifice of millions of dead, the Tudor histories aimed to portray Richard as a villain. Without a first hand record, virtually everything written about the battle is open to question. However, the available facts clarify the reasons for the strategic decision to fight at Bosworth and lead to conclusions as to why Richard's strategy failed.

Henry Tudor's landing in Wales signaled the failure of efforts over the previous two years aimed at preventing a military challenge. Instinctively grasping Clausewitz's concepts of the continuum between war and politics, Richard had made a number of diplomatic attempts to convince French leaders to turn Henry Tudor over to English authorities. Tudor had even been arrested for a short time.<sup>12</sup> Richard also employed economic instruments by assigning lucrative lands to several powerful lords who could raise substantial numbers of troops as incentives for their continued support. He also conducted an information campaign to undermine Tudor's claim to the throne as a distant relative of the deposed Henry VI. But in the end, the French interest in destabilizing England won out, and the French King Charles VIII decided that risking a small number of troops was worth the potential gain.

When the invading force landed, Richard III had several possible courses of action. He could send an army to meet the pretender, wait inside fortified castles and towns for Henry to run out of money to pay his troops, or meet his rival directly. Richard chose the latter option for reasons that Thucydides would recognize as "fear, honor and interest." With overthrows of kings common, Richard would have wanted to stamp out the challenge to his rule before it could gain any momentum. He knew that despite his efforts, nobles had substantial troops at their disposal who might sense an opportunity if he were seen as passive. It would also have been important to him to lead the fight himself. One of the few surviving documents that belonged to Richard was his personal annotated prayer book, showing a high level of devotion to Christian dogma.<sup>13</sup> Educated by the medieval Church, Richard would have been familiar with SS. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas on the concept of Just War, one of the main tenets of which was the requirement for authorization by a sovereign, often interpreted at the time to mean that the king should lead his own army.<sup>14</sup> Richard also may have been concerned that his setting aside of his nephews, whatever the merits of the case for their illegitimacy, did not provide him with as firm a basis for his claim as would victory in battle. A crushing defeat of his most significant rival would cement his reputation as a conqueror and serve as a deterrent to further rebellion. Refusing to meet the military challenge would have the opposite effect and could have encouraged other adventurers to rise against him. Although waiting for the rebel army to run out of money and supplies could have been an effective strategy, it would not have been perceived as honorable, nor would it have solidified Richard's rule as much as a battlefield victory.

Richard's decision for a direct military response to the invasion was based on several assumptions that turned out to be gravely erroneous. While he was certain about his ability to bring superior numbers to the field, he did not wait to collect his full military potential, preferring instead to crush the rebellion as soon as his forces seemed adequate. But the problem lay with the reliability of those forces. Three major families provided the bulk of the troops Richard summoned to defend his crown: John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland; and the Stanley brothers, William and Thomas. All of these families had benefited greatly from Richard's distribution of patronage in terms of lands and revenues.<sup>15</sup> However, Percy had opposed Richard's brother Edward in previous wars and may have been jealous of Richard's popularity in the north of England, traditionally a Percy stronghold. The Stanleys could not have been considered reliable allies. Thomas was related by marriage to the Tudors, and the brothers had a history of playing both sides in previous conflicts. Even worse, the Stanleys held a grudge against Richard for deciding against them in a legal case in which they had tried to seize a piece of land from one of their

neighbors.<sup>16</sup> Richard tried to keep the Stanleys at least neutral by holding Thomas' son as surety; the keeping of political hostages was a common practice in 15th century politics. He assumed that the Stanleys would, at worst, stay out of the battle and that all his other forces would engage. With the forces on hand and the Stanleys bribed and cautious, Richard believed he had a substantial advantage.

On August 21, Richard marched from the city of Leicester with his forces and camped near the small town of Market Bosworth a few miles away. Henry's army and that of the Stanleys arrived in the vicinity separately the same day. The only first-hand account of the August 22 battle, written by a Spanish soldier of fortune, is disjointed and confuses the names of many key participants. For centuries, studies of the battle had to rely on biased Tudor histories which even gave the wrong location for the fighting; the actual battlefield was only located in 2010.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, virtually all accounts of the battle, including those with slick-looking graphics purporting to map the course of the fighting, are incorrect. Modern students of the battle will have to wait for the completion of archeological studies of the field to piece together a more accurate narrative of what may have happened. Despite the lack of clarity as to the tactical events of the day, the strategies of the commanders can be divined from what we know of the battle and its outcome.

Richard's forces have been traditionally estimated at around 10-12,000, with Henry Tudor leading about 5,000 and the Stanleys 4-5,000. Tudor historians had an interest in exaggerating the degree to which they were outnumbered so as to make their victory seem more an act of God, but given that Richard was an experienced field commander, it seems likely that he would have wanted numerical superiority. After an inconclusive exchange of arrows and gunfire, the battle began with a clash of the two vanguards. Howard led Richard's, and the Earl of Oxford led Henry's. These formations would have included some of the best troops in both armies, and probably represented the bulk of the invaders' combat power.<sup>18</sup> At some point, Richard, with his heavy cavalry and personal bodyguards, was able to see Henry Tudor himself with only a few guards in an exposed position. Richard then decided on a strike at his opponents' center of gravity, their candidate for the throne. As Richard and his unit charged, a large number of the Stanley forces, which had thus far taken no part in the battle, attacked, probably from the flank. Some accounts of the battle report that Richard's attack nearly succeeded in reaching Henry. Even Richard's enemies reported that he personally killed two enemy knights with formidable reputations before he fell, surrounded by enemies. In a death worthy of Hollywood, he was cut down in the midst of his foes trying in vain to reach Henry Tudor.<sup>19</sup> Forensic evidence on the skeleton found in 2012 showed multiple wounds consistent with injuries from weapons of the time, including major trauma to the back of the head. For the last time, an English monarch died in battle.

Since 1485, historians have come up with a number of explanations for Richard's defeat. Shakespeare, drawing on Holinshead's Chronicles, has Henry Tudor doing the job personally, but others ascribe his downfall to such factors as his troops deserting him, a rash attack born of desperation, a failure to hear mass on the morning of the battle, the presence (unproved) of French pikemen at the battle, or treachery. It is likely that the last explanation is correct. According to records of correspondence between Henry Tudor and the Stanleys before the battle, in its aftermath, William Stanley was allowed first choice of the plunder from the king's camp.<sup>20</sup> It is possible that the exposure of Henry, or perhaps a decoy, was intended as a trap to induce Richard to commit himself personally at a time and place where the Stanleys could make a counterstroke. Henry Percy, commanding almost a third of Richard's army, never engaged at all. It is unknown if this was treachery, caution or incompetence, but an angry mob in York several years later lynched Percy for what they

believed was his betrayal of the rightful king.

Richard III was a capable leader who had shaped an appropriate strategy to defeat the rebellion that was undone by faulty assumptions.<sup>21</sup> He estimated that his generosity to Percy and the Stanleys had given them motivation for wanting him to remain in power and that he could count on their support. When the battle commenced, he probably believed that the Stanley forces would at worst remain on the sidelines as they had done in the 1459 battle of Blore Heath.<sup>22</sup> His strategy failed because he did not revisit his assumptions and prepare for possible treachery. He also assumed that his forces would be sufficient to defeat the invaders without waiting for additional troops from the north which could have rendered the Stanleys' intervention insignificant. Strategic decision makers today can learn to keep their key assumptions under review and to use all available ways and means when fighting for regime survival. Failing in these areas, Richard was killed, his body looted and buried without ceremony in a Leicester church that was torn down during the Reformation. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the site was paved over and used as a parking lot, a far cry from the elaborate Tudor tombs in Windsor Castle and Westminster Abbey.

Endnotes (all links longer than 26 characters are shown in the tinyURL short version):

- <sup>1</sup> Information on the skeleton and how Richard III was killed was broadcast on Channel 4 TV in the UK. The relevant clip was accessed September 2013 at [tinyurl.com/nu6pmmq](http://tinyurl.com/nu6pmmq)
- <sup>2</sup> William Shakespeare, Henry VI, Pt 3, Act 3, Scene 2. An audio clip of a performance of this speech is available at [tinyurl.com/pwxll7g](http://tinyurl.com/pwxll7g)
- <sup>3</sup> Anthony Goodman, *The Wars of the Roses* (London and New York: Routledge, 1981), 193.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, 169.
- <sup>5</sup> Polydore Vergil, *English History*, in *To Prove a Villain*, ed. by Taylor Littleton and Robert Rea, (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1964), 88.
- <sup>6</sup> Michael Jones, *Bosworth 1485*, (Stroud, UK, Tempus Publishing, 2002), 190.
- <sup>7</sup> Many volumes have been written on the events surrounding Richard's accession (or usurpation, depending on the writer). For a good general discussion, see Paul Murray Kendall, *Richard III*, (New York, WW Norton & Co. 2002).
- <sup>8</sup> Jones, 142
- <sup>9</sup> Sir Francis Bacon, *History of the Reign of King Henry VII*, in *To Prove a Villain*, ed. by Taylor Littleton and Robert Rea, (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1964), 104.
- <sup>10</sup> Ann Sutton, "Richard III, His Parliament," *The Richard III Society*, Accessed October, 2013, [tinyurl.com/pqs7z5d](http://tinyurl.com/pqs7z5d)
- <sup>11</sup> Jones, 115.
- <sup>12</sup> Jones, 152
- <sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, 61.
- <sup>14</sup> Aquinas, St. Thomas. "The Just War." In *The Summa Theologica*. Accessed October 2013 at [tinyurl.com/k5a2h6u](http://tinyurl.com/k5a2h6u)
- <sup>15</sup> J.R. Lander, *Government and Community, England 1450-1509* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1981), 317
- <sup>16</sup> Jones, 169
- <sup>17</sup> For an extensive discussion of the process of determining the actual battlefield and the difficulty of placing traditional accounts of the fighting consistent with geography, see Glenn Foard, "Bosworth Battlefield, a Reassessment." (Leicester: Leicestershire County Council, 2004), accessed September 2013 at [tinyurl.com/k33ts52](http://tinyurl.com/k33ts52). Foard's work was critical in the field studies that in 2010 confirmed the location of the battle to be approximately two miles from where earlier histories placed it.
- <sup>18</sup> Foard, 30.
- <sup>19</sup> An almost comically bad Hollywood depiction of Shakespeare's version of Richard's

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death, courtesy of Laurence Olivier, can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/ky6xo34](http://tinyurl.com/ky6xo34) in the US. [To view in the UK go to [tinyurl.com/lgwzpf](http://tinyurl.com/lgwzpf) ]

<sup>20</sup> Jones 201.

<sup>21</sup> Although tangential to this paper, it is worth noting that Henry Tudor's strategy offers much to question. He risked battle against a superior force with unreliable offers of support from the Stanleys. Even with their forces added, he probably still could not match the numbers of the Royalists. Given the likelihood of failure, it is worth questioning why he risked invasion at all. It is possible that he was given exaggerated reports of potential resistance to Richard's rule, or he felt that the French would sell him out eventually. Whatever the reason for his decision, his victory owed as much to luck as any other factor.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*, 25.

~ToC~

## Were They Really Called That?

A Look at a Selection of Popular Epithets and Phrases Commonly Associated with Some Prominent Persons, Places, and Things of Richard III's Time

Tamara Baker

I've been interested in England's last Plantagenet king for nearly two decades, but it was only recently that I decided to get involved in Ricardian scholarship beyond the most superficial levels. In the course of an email exchange with another Ricardian, one far more learned and experienced than I suspect I ever could be, I discussed what sort of things that I, as an American without ready access to period source material, should be attempting to research.

That exchange resulted in my being set the following task, which was to determine if any of the following terms, phrases or conceits were actually used during the lifetimes of the persons, events, or concepts with whom they were most strongly associated:

"Proud Cis"

"The Wars of the Roses"

"Warwick the Kingmaker"

"Rose of Raby"

"Tudor dynasty" (the Tudor monarchs never used their surname)

"Windsor of the North" (that's Middleham, not Warwick!)

"Last of the Barons" (Warwick the K again)

"She-wolf of France" (for either Isabella, Edward II's queen, or Margaret of Anjou)

"Hundred Years" War'

"Universal Spider" (of Louis XI)

As the kids say on the internet these days: "Challenge accepted."

Granted, I'm hobbled by being stuck in the U.S., which means that I'm pretty much limited to fooling around online, but I can at least make a run at it:

Re: "Wars of the Roses"—It was definitely a late invention, and it was Sir Walter Scott who came up with the term by making use of a scene from Shakespeare.<sup>1</sup> In Shakespeare's time, funnily enough, the preferred term was apparently "the Civil Wars", which stayed in use until the Cavalier/Roundhead conflict appropriated that term. Samuel Daniel, who was Poet Laureate for a short time under Elizabeth I, used the term in his poetry on the subject.<sup>2</sup>

There was never a "Tudor dynasty", "House of Tudor", or any other such thing while the Earl of Richmond and his issue had the throne. In Henry's time and for some time after,

the name “Tudor” had somewhat downmarket associations due in part to its Welsh origins, which is one reason why Henry VII preferred to use the term “Union” to describe the blended family that resulted from his marriage to Elizabeth of York.<sup>3</sup> It didn’t help that there were rumors surrounding the parentages of not just Henry, but also his putative father Edmund Tudor, who may well have been more accurately called “Edmund fitz Beaufort” if the rumors about him are true.<sup>4</sup>

The term “Windsor of the North” does not seem to predate the 1894 publication of Edmund Bogg’s *From Edenvale to the Plains of York* (it appears on page 257)<sup>5</sup>, though a Yorkshire taxicab service, of all things, claims that the Nevilles were the first to apply it to Middleham after acquiring it in the thirteenth century.<sup>6</sup> The term, I suspect, stems from a frequently quoted passage from Edward “Dark and Stormy Night” Bulwer-Lytton’s 1843 novel *The Last of the Barons*, about the might and power of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick: “...the most renowned statesmen, the mightiest lords flocked to his hall : Middleham, not Windsor, nor Westminster, nor Sheene, not the Tower, seemed the court of England.”<sup>7</sup>

Need I even say that “the Cousins’ War” does not predate the efforts of Philippa Gregory to promote it? Unfortunately, I probably do. I suspect she may very well have been inspired by a very similar phrase, *The Cousins’ Wars* (note the plural), which is the title of a 1999 book by American author Kevin Phillips in which he holds forth on the Cavalier/Roundhead fight, the American Revolution, and the American Civil War.<sup>8</sup>

As for “Warwick the Kingmaker,” he never was called that during his lifetime, the term doesn’t appear until 1599 per the OED.<sup>9</sup> And “The Last of the Barons” can be traced straight to the aforementioned novel of that title by Edward “Dark and Stormy Night” Bulwer-Lytton.<sup>10</sup>

The earliest instance of “Proud Cis” I can so far find dates to 1848, in a footnote on page 213 of Volume 3 of Agnes Strickland’s *Lives of the Queens of England from the Norman Conquest*.<sup>11</sup>

Continuing on the subject of Cicely Neville, the earliest time that “Rose of Raby” was in use (the earliest I can find, anyhow) is 1795, as Cicely; or, the *Rose of Raby* was the title of a rather soppy novel by Agnes Musgrave.<sup>12</sup> (As a side note, the term “Proud Cis” does not appear once in the book.) [See Editor’s note preceding the Endnotes.]

I can’t find any cites for “Hundred Years’ War” that predate the 19th century, and sure enough, that’s when it was invented.<sup>13</sup> (By the way: <http://www.medievalsoldier.org> looks like it would be a good resource for looking up data on English soldiers.)

“She-Wolf of France”, at least as pertaining to Margaret of Anjou, is indeed Shakespeare, I think—at least, I haven’t been able to find anything predating his referring to her as such in the Duke of York’s monologue in *Henry VI, Part 3*. As for its use by moderns in referring to Isabella of France, Alison Weir in her 2012 book on Isabella states that this was due to Thomas Gray’s appropriating the term from Shakespeare.<sup>14</sup>

“Universal Spider” is genuine, in my reckoning. Phillipe de Commines, who was one of Louis’ operatives, titled his biography of Louis IX *The Universal Spider*. (Paul Murray Kendall translated it into English, and his translation was published by the First Folio Society in 1970.)<sup>15</sup> The term seems to have first been bestowed upon Louis XI by Charles the Bold of Burgundy, who apparently did indeed once say “I combat the Universal Spider”.<sup>16</sup> The authenticity of this quote seems to be buttressed by its earliest versions being rendered in what is allegedly Middle French—*je combate l’universelle aragne*—as opposed to Modern French, in which the word for “spider” would be *araignee*. Nietzsche actually references the “I fight the universal spider” quote in his *On the Genealogy of Morals*.<sup>17</sup>

So of these ten sobriquets, it looks very much like only one of them was not invented at least several decades (if not centuries) after the fact. It shouldn’t surprise anyone, then,

that the common modern understanding of this time period is so wrong on so much.

Editor's note: After a reading of *Queen by Right*, Anne Easter Smith, author, discussed the possible origin of both sobriquets attributed to Cicely Neville. As part of her research, she visited Raby Castle ([rabycastle.com](http://rabycastle.com)) where she met with their historian who maintained that Cecily was known as the "Rose of Raby" when she was a child living at Raby Castle. From "A Conversation with Anne Easter Smith" published in *Queen By Right*:

"...I never did find the origin of these nicknames, but they are everywhere in the secondary sources down the centuries. It told me that Cecily must have been very beautiful, and it also told me she was not someone who suffered fools gladly.  
..."

Endnotes (all links longer than 26 characters are shown in the tinyURL short version):

- <sup>1</sup> Wikipedia—Wars of the Roses: [tinyurl.com/lwlt7ue](http://tinyurl.com/lwlt7ue)
- <sup>2</sup> Wikipedia—Samuel Daniel: [tinyurl.com/ko8jmys](http://tinyurl.com/ko8jmys)
- <sup>3</sup> Article—Is 'Tudor England' a myth?: [tinyurl.com/kzpb4nl](http://tinyurl.com/kzpb4nl)
- <sup>4</sup> Wikipedia—Catherine of Valois: [tinyurl.com/6hevze](http://tinyurl.com/6hevze)
- <sup>5</sup> ebook—*From Edenvale to the Plains of York* by Edmund Bogg: [tinyurl.com/pm2qeyx](http://tinyurl.com/pm2qeyx)
- <sup>6</sup> Middleham Airport Taxi: [tinyurl.com/k2sztk5](http://tinyurl.com/k2sztk5)
- <sup>7</sup> ebook—*The Last of the Barons* by Edward Bulwer Lytton: [tinyurl.com/k2strmq](http://tinyurl.com/k2strmq)
- <sup>8</sup> *The Cousins' Wars* by Kevin Phillips: [tinyurl.com/koj358b](http://tinyurl.com/koj358b)
- <sup>9</sup> Article—What is a 'Kingmaker'?: [tinyurl.com/nqntp4o](http://tinyurl.com/nqntp4o)
- <sup>10</sup> Wikipedia—The Last of the Barons: [tinyurl.com/ormk35l](http://tinyurl.com/ormk35l)
- <sup>11</sup> ebook—*Lives of the Queens of England* by Agnes Strickland: [tinyurl.com/qxnsmtq](http://tinyurl.com/qxnsmtq)
- <sup>12</sup> ebook—Cicely or the Rose of Raby by A. Musgrave: [tinyurl.com/kxocty4](http://tinyurl.com/kxocty4)
- <sup>13</sup> Article—Hundred Years War: [tinyurl.com/p4m68j6](http://tinyurl.com/p4m68j6)
- <sup>14</sup> *Isabella: She-Wolf of France, Queen of England* by Alison Weir: [tinyurl.com/oo9hp5z](http://tinyurl.com/oo9hp5z)
- <sup>15</sup> *The Universal Spider—The Life of Louis XI of France* by Phillippe de Commynes, translated by Paul Kendall: [tinyurl.com/nca52mg](http://tinyurl.com/nca52mg)
- <sup>16</sup> Louis XI: [tinyurl.com/kscqvdx](http://tinyurl.com/kscqvdx)
- <sup>17</sup> Article—On the Genealogy of Morals By Friedrich Nietzsche: [tinyurl.com/pzq3bx7](http://tinyurl.com/pzq3bx7)

~ToC~

## From the Editor

Please join me in welcoming our new Research Officer, Dr. Compton Reeves, Professor Emeritus, Ohio University. I look forward to his support in our continuing efforts to enhance the quality of this publication.

Even though the number of articles submitted for publication has been low, the quality of these articles has been high. This year, the American Branch owes much to contributions from: Peter Stride, Jonathan Hayes, Diana Rubino, John Ashdown-Hill, Susan Troxell, John Erath, and Tamara Baker. In addition, my thanks to Sandra Heath Wilson for brightening the pages with two Ricardian satires.

As stated links longer than 26 characters will be printed in the tinyURL format instead of the original link. If you are reading the article in the printed edition of the *Register* and wish to go to the online reference, all you need do is type the tinyURL address shown into the address line of your web browser. You do not have to type "http://www." that generally precedes links since the web browser will resolve the address correctly. If you are reading the digital edition, just click on the hyperlink to go to the reference.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you about one of the articles featured in the September-2014 edition (Vol. 45 #3) of the *Ricardian Register*; namely, *The Burial—and Reburial— of Richard III*. In the article and his endnotes, John Ashdown-Hill writes and comments that the "Roman Catholic Church" did not exist in England at the time of Richard III (or prior) and that such a concept or designation was "invented" in the 17th century by "xenophobic Anglicans."

Where did he get this?! Nothing can be further from the truth.

Although not specifically called such in the first century, the "Roman Catholic Church" dates back to the time of the Apostles. Until 1054, there was only that one Christian church founded by the Apostles and their successors. As such, all believers were simply called "Christians."

In 1054, the Great Schism occurred, resulting in the Western (Roman) Church and the Eastern (Orthodox) Church(es) under the Patriarch of Constantinople—both of which, to this day, officially refer to themselves as "catholic" meaning "universal." For one reason or another, the Roman Church seems to have monopolized the term "catholic" with a capital "C" so that CATHOLIC and ROMAN CATHOLIC are synonymous and interchangeable. This is why the citation of Liz Hudson of the Diocese of Leicester (endnote 1) reads as it does: no distinction was made between the two; none was needed.

Since the time of the Great Schism—centuries before Anglicans existed, let alone xenophobic ones—the Church of the West was termed "Roman" demonstrating its obedience to, and leadership by, the Roman Pontiff as the Successor of St. Peter. Ever since the Christian faith was first introduced into England, England was part of the Roman Catholic Church and under the authority of the respective Pope.

Consequently, Richard III and every other English sovereign prior to—and even including Henry VIII --was certainly a "Roman Catholic" and would have undoubtedly seen him/herself as such. There was no other "Catholic" Church in England!

In short, the ecclesial community—and concept—of the "Roman Catholic Church" existed well before the *Seicento*. This should be noted and clarified. Thank you.

Confraternally yours,

Angelo A. Sedacca

~ToC~

## Message from American Branch Chairman

Jonathan A. Hayes

The 2014 AGM was certainly an enjoyable time. In-person attendance gives one the chance to actually handle, pieces of vellum, a blank book bound in the medieval fashion, a longbow and arrows as well as to see a yew stave being worked toward a longbow shape – things you won't get from the printed page. And I'm certain we can all agree that the Illinois Chapter puts on a banquet entertainment that would be very hard to match! They have our very great thanks.

Richard's re-interment will be occurring next March in Leicester Cathedral. It has been quite interesting to me to see how many people are not aware of what a cathedral is. We normally think of it as a vast, soaring edifice. Certainly many cathedrals are this, but actually

a cathedral is really just a bishop's church. The Diocese of Leicester was only established in 1926; prior to that Leicester had been part of the Diocese of Peterborough since Anglo-Saxon times. So Leicester Cathedral is really just the re-branded Parish Church of St. Martin's, and, as such, it really isn't very large. Maximum capacity, including all the side chapels, is probably not more than 700. When you consider there are about 4,000 Society members in the UK alone plus all us coming from "the colonies" and there are a lot of people who won't get in.

The parent Society has been wrestling with this and the details are promised for the September Ricardian Bulletin. Now you know as much as I do; but I'm sure the allocation process will be as fair as can be. I look on it as a chance to meet up with other Ricardians from around the world; I know there will be people coming from New Zealand and Canada and I'm sure the Australians will be well-represented. If you are planning to come, please let me know your dates and where you'll be staying. (I expect hotels will fill up rapidly).

It is truly a great time to be a Ricardian; these are the golden years of the Society and we should feel privileged to be a part of them.

~ToC~

## AGM Banquet Entertainment

Ricardian members share their talent at 2014 AGM Banquet

Joyce Tumea

The 2014 AGM Banquet Entertainment involved many of the attendees as participants, and as contributors to the program material. The after-dinner offerings opened with a poetry-reading by Jackie Hudson of the lyrics to the "Hail Ricardians" song from the 2011 Chicago AGM, which was followed by several men in the group—Jonathan Hayes, Doug Petersen, and Tony Tumea—reading parts of the parody, "Disclos'd," by Ian Frazier and submitted by Jonathan Hayes. Next came Myrna Smith's "Scenes from an Unwritten Story," about Thomas Howard, presented, with a twist, by four women—and the poem, "Anne's Tale," written by Janet Trimbath. Anne was played by Dawn Shafer and the role of Richard was performed by Frank ("Franzi") Latko. These and other selections were interspersed with ten humorous "Ricardian connections"—bits in which the challenge to connect RIII and some unlikely one or thing were attempted; one example is "RIII and Kit Carson: Richard the Third and Kit Carson could have teamed up for a bit of arson—if they'd lived in the same time and town, and had a good reason to burn something down." Different people took turns reading these.

The humorous and slightly naughty poem "Maid Mary" (who was "made *merry* one very fine spring day, when over yon horizon, a knight didst ride her way") was followed by an excerpt from Joan Szechtman's time travel novel on Richard, "This Time," read by Bonnie Battaglia, and by a group of members delivering a climactic scene from Tedd Trimbath's play, "A Visit to Bosworth Field"; this also involved time travel. That cast included Bob Pfile, Doug and Jerilyn Petersen, and Victoria and Brent Pitman, with Sharon Michalove as the narrator. The "Car Park Poem," penned and read by Joyce Tumea, lauded the efforts of Phillipa Langley and John Ashdowne-Hill, who "succeeded in giving the world a thrill, when a skeleton was found, buried under the ground, in the dirt and the dark, of England's Leicester Car Park...."

The entertainment, created and presented almost exclusively by our own talented fellow Ricardians, concluded with the entire group gathered together for a YouTube "Slogan Slam" in which various members recited – with great enthusiasm and emotion—phrases such as "Let's Right, not Wrong, Richard the Third," and "Richard the Third—not such a bad guy

after all,” all of which ended with “Join the RIII Society!” That video can be accessed at [youtu.be/3Agu9McqCQ0](https://youtu.be/3Agu9McqCQ0)

Other attendees, many of whom participated in presenting the entertainment, if only the You-Tube part, included Jerie Logan, Nita Musgrave, Marcy Ladrach, Karen Stangby, Jane Munsie-Moeller, Mary Retallick, Maria Torres, Lindy High, Jack Gobel, Charlene McKenzie, Rosalyn Rossignol, Chloe Massarello, and Starla Kay Roels. The program was coordinated by the Illinois Chapter—and a good time was had by all!

~ToC~

## 2014 Dickon Award

Sally Keil

At the recent AGM it was the Board’s pleasure to announce that the winner of the Dickon Award for 2014 is Joan Szechtman, Editor of The Ricardian Register.

Joan has been a member of The Richard III Society since 2005. In that time her contributions to The Society have been many. She took on the role of Moderator for the New England Chapter when that job became vacant and guided that chapter into a growing and lively band of Ricardians. After the past editor of the American Branch publication, Carole Rike passed away; Joan was approached by the board and accepted the position. Soon thereafter, the printer who produced the Register for us closed its doors and Joan was plunged into not only editing the publication but to find a new printer and distributor and to devise a cost effective way of producing it. This resulted in the current format of a digitally printed booklet publication with a four-color cover. When the previous Membership Chair had to resign due to illness Joan was one of a small group of volunteers who stepped in to insure that membership duties were met until a new Chair could be found.

Joan can always be counted on to thoughtfully and actively contribute her time and energy to the Society and we are pleased to name her as the 2014 Dickon Award recipient.



# Ricardian Review

Myrna Smith

## THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT....

Two new Ricardian books, some assorted novels, then back to history again, though of a slightly later time:

FINDING RICHARD III: The Official Account of Research by the Retrieval & Reburial Project—A.J. Carson, ed., with J. Ashdown-Hill, D. Johnson, W. Johnson & P. Langley, Imprimis Imprimatur, London, 2014.

It's wonderful to behold how different people can put altogether different spins on the same facts. From the first chapter of this book;

In death [Richard's] body was widely reported as subjected to indignities: 'many other insults were offered', the Crowland chronicle remarks, which included having a felon's halter placed around his neck as he was carried to Leicester 'with insufficient humanity'....

Here is Desmond Seward's take, in his later edition of *Richard III, England's Black Legend*: (Penguin, NY)

Everything revealed by the skeleton confirms the traditional view of Richard III. A nightmarishly deformed spine establishes beyond any question that he was misshapen—previously, revisionists had insisted his 'crookback' was a Tudor lie... The wounds on his skull, evidence of a frenzied hail of blows, point to the hatred he inspired among his opponents, as does his burial—naked, in a hole in the ground instead of a proper grave.

This book at least refutes the latter sentence, which originated from a statement by Polydore Vergil that Richard was afforded 'no funeral solemnity,' meaning that he had no elaborate rites, such as might have been expected for an anointed king. He certainly had the Last Rites, since he did not die excommunicate, and had a proper grave, in the choir of the Greyfriars, "an honour reserved for only the most high-status occupants. Despite the haste of his internment it was entirely appropriate from every point of view... For Henry VII the advantage of this burial site was that the choir... would not have been accessible to the general public."

There is some overlap here with Langley's *The King's Grave* (co-authored with Michael Jones, St. Martins, NY, 2013). That was more a chronicle and a personal story, with background information and speculation by the authors. This is, not so much a 'how-to' book, as a 'how-we-did-it' book, and also 'how-much-we-spent-on-it.' Reproductions of the necessary permits, etc., will show how much of that money went for paperwork, what the British call 'bumf.' Whether it was worth it is left to the reader to decide. Though the book is only 96 pages, index and all, there are chapters on 'DNA of Richard Iii and his Siblings,' 'Local topography and Archeology,' 'Reburial and Commemoration,' many maps, pictures, etc. It is well footnoted and researched, and will be a useful adjunct to *The King's Grave*, and a counterweight to Sewer(d).

One little nit to pick. It would be useful, when there are a number of authors, to have some idea of who wrote what. If individual credit is allotted, I must have missed it.

As for Desmond Seward's screed, I read and reviewed the first edition, way back when. I am older now, and don't choose to spend any of my valuable remaining days repeating the experience. Let someone younger, with lower blood pressure, tackle it, and pick apart his arguments. Please, some brave soul let me hear from you.

*Brevity is the soul of wit*—William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

LADY ANNE MOWBRAY, THE HIGH AND EXCELLENT PRINCESS: The child wife of a Prince in the Tower—Marilyn Roberts, Queens-Haven Publications, UK, 2013

In her Preface, the author says: “Very little is known about Lady Anne Mowbray herself, so this was always going to be a shorter book than usual.” And it is, approximately 130 pages, including index and notes. (Notes are also provided at the ends of chapters.) She has not considered it part of her brief to do a ‘life and times’ of the young lady, nor to provide background of the Wars of the Roses and “mini-biographies’ of its participants, much less to weigh in on the mystery of what happened to the princes. It can best be considered an adjunct and coda to her other books on the Mowbray family, and her ‘bare bones’ books. (None of which I have read, but would like to.) And it is partly a consideration of the mystery surrounding Anne herself. How did a body respectably buried in Westminster Abbey wind up two miles away? (Hint: A Tudor was responsible.) When we consider the curious history of the King in the car park, and the King under the golf course (see below), let’s give a thought to the Princess beneath the bomb site.

In spite of her disclaimer, Ms. Roberts does provide a précis of the Mowbray family history, with a number of genealogical tables. It’s more than just the ‘begats.’ The finances of the family are also apropos. An ancestor of Anne’s accumulated a fortune of 48 *billion* pounds, in modern money, yet Anne’s father was often reduced to borrowing money from his shirttail kin, John Howard. Even so, it was another cousin, Lord Berkeley, who was known as ‘The Waster.’ Given the competition, he must have been something *really* special.

Ms. Roberts has a soft spot for the Howards, particularly John. She does not believe he had anything to do with the disappearance of the princes. References to the boys are framed in terms of “it is said” or “it is believed.”

This concise volume was also intended, I believe, as a cautionary tale of what to avoid under the circumstances of discovering and reburying deceased royals. Some hope! She devotes a rueful chapter to that, as well, and includes a chronology.

Like the previous book, a very worthwhile volume.

*Yes and No are soon said, but give much to think over.*—Baltasar Gracian

THE WHITE BOAR AND THE RED DRAGON—Margaret W. Price, Exlibris Corporation, UK, 2013

A few years ago, I toyed with the idea of writing a Ricardian novel myself. I abandoned the idea when I saw that all I had was a few dramatic episodes, with no connecting theme. Perhaps I didn’t need one. The author of this novel admits right up front that it is written in a “loose, episodic manner, with no chapters, but in vignettes, letters, and personal ...revelations and soliloquies.” While there are many different narrators, different tenses, different formats, there is a common theme. That is the parallel lives of the two protagonists, Richard Plantagenet (the White Boar) and Henry Tudor (the Red Dragon). In fact, as well as fiction, they were parallel in many ways.

Both Richard and Henry are blessed—or cursed—with ambitious, strong-minded mothers. Cecily Neville is present physically during her son’s early childhood, but distant emotionally. She comes to see her youngest son as her—and England’s—last best hope. Margaret Beaufort, who sees her only chick on rare occasions until he is a grown man, will do anything to put him on the throne of England. Theirs are not the only points of view we will see. But always the reader is brought back to the histories and ambitions of the two men. Both will say, at different times and for different reasons, “I did not wish this,”—but it occurs anyway. Both will have nightmares: Richard before the Battle of Bosworth:

“Then there was George—his face and body all bloated, his eyes red and staring, his mouth loose and dribbling—the face of a drowned man. I saw one

once, half-floating in the mud of the Thames shallow outside Baynard's Castle...it was just like that.”

Henry's come after the battle, reliving it. As he discovers, nightmares are custom-made by their owners.

The book is arranged chronologically and dated accurately, but could certainly have used a good proofreader in other ways. May I offer my services for future authors? I will work cheap, just for the chance to read a book in manuscript. My qualifications? I am one of the few people alive who can distinguish 'lie' and 'lay,' and knows when to say 'me' and when to say 'I'. But more seriously, I could have rescued the author from some pretty egregious mistakes, chiefly in naming Owain Glendower, rather than Owen Tudor, as Henry's grandfather. This may be deliberate, since she repeats it several times. While there is very little creation of fictional characters, mostly walk-ons and servants, some people who actually existed are arbitrarily omitted, most notably Richard's bastard daughter Katherine. Her brother (half-brother?) John is noted, and her mother, but not Katherine. Odd, that.

In the last chapter, Henry muses “Now I am king of this great country in which I feel an alien as yet. I only hope I can do as well as Richard did in his short time on earth...I will have to work hard to make my mark, to show that I have the commonweal of the people at heart, like Richard. I will have to justify my new position as king...” He will fail in that, except insofar as he kept England from getting embroiled in too many foreign wars. His failure will be partly engineered by himself, partly by others. He will be shadowed by 'Perkin Warbeck,' as he shadowed Richard. In short, half of the story is yet to be told. If Ms. Price decides to tell the other half, I would ask her to find that proofreader, please, and please, please, loose about 75% of the exclamation points!

RINGS OF PASSAGE—Karla Tipton, CreateSpace, Lexington, KY, 2013

Owain Glendower also appears in this story. Sort of. Almost. At least, the author gets his place in gemology correct. He is distant (in more ways than one) kin to the Tudors.

But let's start at the beginning. Anise Wynford is an aspiring actress who has inherited a ring from her biological father, an archeologist. The ring has certain Powers, which transfer her back to the 1485. There, the man who discovers her in distress and takes her home to his mother is none other than Richard III, and he has the twin to that ring. Or maybe it is a triplet, since the other one was presumably buried with Queen Anne. Duchess Cecily, believing the ring—Richard's ring, at least—is hexed, wants Anise to exchange her ring for his. But how is she to get the chance? And will it mean danger for her?

The rings were originally made by Owain Glendower, a wizard of great power. Shakespeare has him claim that he “can call up spirits from the vasty deep,” but here he is one of the spirits called up by Margaret Beaufort and her lover, John Morton, who are determined to use any means possible to put Margaret's son on the throne. Obviously, several people or entities want one of those rings (three? four? Or just two?) Anise finds herself pursued by Richard (a widower of a year who is just beginning to take an interest in life again), by Lord Stanley, and by Owain himself (in the almost-flesh). Anise finally has to confess to Richard that she is from another time, but in spite of knowing what is to happen, he feels he must engage at Bosworth Field. But that is not the end....

An interesting sidelight is the scene in which Richard, a connoisseur of books, and William Caxton, a printer, exclaim over the 'exquisite beauty' of what seems to be an ordinary modern trade paperback, such as *Rings of Passage* itself. Their different point of view shows up also in a complaint about the difficulty of reading it. It seems logical that they would have as much trouble with modern typography as we do with Gothic print.

Where Ms. Tipton needs a proofreader is mostly in mathematics. Margaret Beaufort is depicted as a somewhat ‘faded beauty’ in her fifties. Actually she was in her early forties at the time of this novel’s setting. She ‘only ever loved’ her first husband, Edmund Tudor, who has been dead for 32 years. But given that Edmund’s posthumous son (Henry) is 28 (Tipton says 29), this calls for elephantine, if not reptilian, reproduction.

Anyway, if you like time-travel fantasy, with a touch of the supernatural, this is for you. Ignore the cover art, which shows a rather glowering Richard. Not that he didn’t have something to glower about.

MIMUS—Lili Thal, Firefly Books, NY, 2005, translated from the German by John Brownjohn

“Enter,” says the blurb “a medieval world of unbearable suspense.” It is indeed a medieval world, but not the one we know from our history books. It is in an alternate universe, but one not too different from the historical one. People pray to saints, go on pilgrimages to Compostela; diplomats visit Frankland (where they eat frogs), Angleland, Moltovia, and Vinland.

The story starts with the Kiss of Peace being given between Vinland and Moltovia, ending years of war. The crown prince of Moltovia, Florin, goes to Vinland to join his father and his father’s courtiers in celebration, only to learn that he has fallen into a trap. King Theodo of Vinland intends to have the Moltovian adults executed, but spares the boy’s life—not for any magnanimous reason. He wants to humiliate the royal family by apprenticing their son to a jester.

Enter Mimus, the jester, who apparently has no other name, or has forgotten the one he had. He proves a hard taskmaster, giving Florin what appear to be almost impossible assignments. Memorize 365 riddles? Learn 99 love songs? Walk on his toes all morning? (Ow!) The boy learns because he must, and waits to find an opportunity to free his father. The jesters subsist on one meal of porridge a day, plus whatever tidbits the king deigns to throw them. Samples of their entertainments are given, some of which are rather rude. Could you do any better on a diet of porridge?

It is tempting to try to find real-life parallels with the characters of the novel. Who was the cruel Theodo, who could be Vlad Dracula’s younger, nastier, brother? It is more likely that Ms. Thal merely intended this to be a rousing good adventure story, which it is, with all ending happily. And there are some comic moments too. E.g., Florin is re-entering the castle from his (strictly forbidden) foray into the outer world, by way of the garderobe (privy) shaft, only to discover, when he gets to the top, that—. But no, read the book and find out. It will most probably be in the Young Adult department.

THREE MAIDS FOR A CROWN: A Novel of the Grey Sisters—Ella March Chase, Crown Publishing group, NY, 2011

This novel illustrates what happened with the Tudors ran out of Plantagenet pretenders. They began to (figuratively) eat their own. However reluctantly, Mary had Jane Grey executed, and Gloriana’s treatment of Jane’s younger sisters, the author admits, was not her most glorious hour. Neither do the girls’ parents come off very well, though Ms. Chase acknowledges that there is disagreement among historians about just how awful they were. The author goes with Roger Ascham’s interpretation, which is her privilege, and which has some evidence for it. At one point, the girls’ mother, Frances, excuses her marriage to her servant, Adrian Stokes, by saying that their ancestor Edmund Tudor held the same position, Master of the Horse, to Queen Catherine (Valois). She, or Ms. Chase, has him confused with his father, Owen, and what he was master of was the Wardrobe, not the Horse. *Again*, proof of the need of a good proofreader.

Most people who are interested in history know about the Nine Days' Queen. What of her sisters? Well, Katherine was tossed into prison for marrying without the Queen's permission, and managed to get pregnant, twice, under those conditions. And Mary, the youngest by several years, has been described as a hunchbacked dwarf, who married a 'sergeant porter.' The cover art of the book, however, shows three well-built and richly dressed young ladies, nose-to-hip level.

The narration rotates among the sisters, and Ms. Chase frequently gives the age of the narrator, as well as the date, which emphasizes just how young these women were when they died—naturally, in the case of the two younger ones.

*When I struggle to be terse, I end by being obscure.* - Horace

SISTER QUEENS: The Noble, Tragic Lives of Katherine of Aragon and Juana, Queen of Castile—Julia Fox, Ballantine Books, NY, 2011

This has the same jacket style as *Three Maids for a Crown*, young women with the top part of their heads invisible. It is a dual biography that reads like fiction, but is fact, 99% of the time. Ms. Fox does state that Elizabeth of York was 'not the first queen to die in childbirth.' Actually, she was the first queen since the conquest to die peri-childbirth while queen. (Catherine of Valois may have also died in childbed, but she was an ex-queen, or Queen Dowager, at the time.) She also states that Henry VII "was on almost first-name terms with every coin in his treasury." This is one of many bon mots that the author comes up with, but it may be true because there were really not that many coins. According to John Guy, the author of *Tudor England* (OUP, 1988) the bulk of Henry's 'fortune' consisted of jewels, plate, and IOUs from various European monarchs and nobles. (Professor Fox, meet Professor Guy. Oh, you've met? Oh, you're married? Oh.)

These few points aside, Ms. Fox has written a very thorough and readable study, sympathetic to her subjects without being fawning. She clearly does not believe that Juana was crazy, citing many visitors who talked with her and discerned no signs of mental aberration, even after many years' captivity. Except maybe that she was insanely jealous of her husband Phillip, who deserved his title of 'Le Bel' about as much as Juana deserved to be called 'La Loca.' If Juana thought that that the Hapsburg jaw and the Hapsburg mouth added up to 'handsome,' she wanted either her head or her eyes examined.

The troubles of both women really began with the death of Queen Isabella. There were a few things that the Most Catholic Queen would not do, though lying was not one of them. Ferdinand was not so particular. His probable motives for the shabby treatment of his surviving daughters are discussed, but none reflect well on him.

Both made relatively 'old bones' for their times, Katherine dying at 51, and Juana at 78, a good age even today (My age—I'm now on borrowed time!) Katherine spent her last few years a virtual prisoner, Juana was an actual one for most of her life. They deserve our sympathy, and our consideration as worthy subjects of historical writing in their own right.

*What orators lack in depth they make up in length.* - Montesquieu

THE LAST WHITE ROSE: The Secret Wars of the Tudors—Desmond Seward, Pegasus Books, NY, 2014

My shunning of Seward is not absolute. I read and found things to praise in this book. Seward is very useful at distinguishing between the de la Poles and the Poles (entirely different, but both causing trouble with Henrys VII and VIII, respectively), and following their careers. He introduces us to men we might not have thought of as Yorkists (the haughty duke of Buckingham) and to minor actors (e.g. Lord Darcy de Darcy). His bias against Richard III, does not spill over to other Yorkists, with whom he rather sympathizes, and he

acknowledges that Edward IV was guilty of some of the things for which Richard III has been blamed.

On the other hand, he often confuses his conclusions with fact. Anne Boleyn was a ‘horrible woman?’ No saint, certainly, but ‘horrible?’ There was a ‘tiny little clique’ who was ‘trying to force German ideas on the Church?’ Lollards were ‘more or less illiterate?’ Since they put great emphasis on reading the Scriptures, they tended to be more literate than the average Englishman. Maybe the author means literate in Latin. In discussing Henry VIII’s appearance, he notes that even the younger, slimmer king had ‘eyes on the small size, with a bird-like watchfulness,’ (his father’s eyes?) and an ‘odd little mouth’ (where did that come from?) These facts are verifiable by looking at his portraits. But Seward goes on to say that Henry was ‘over six feet tall—in an age when most men were little more than five,’ the last part is simply speculation, and is not true. The average height was not very much less than today.

Not all speculation is unjustified. Seward suggests that Henry VIII, a famous jousting, may have suffered the same kind of brain damage that affects boxers and football players. There can be no absolute proof of this, but it is an arguable premise.

In (ahem) short, *caveat emptor*.

Postscript: I once did a presentation for an AGM on “Pretenders in the English court.” My research uncovered a Richard Hosier, resident in France. No indication of who he was or who he pretended to be, but Henry VIII wanted to get his hands on him. Seward does not mention him, and my notes have gotten lost or misplaced over the course of several moves in the last 20 years, but I’m sure I did not invent him. Is there anyone out there who can help?

FATAL RIVALRY: FLODDEN 1513—Henry VIII, James IV and the Battle for Renaissance Britain—George Goodwin, W.W. Norton & Company, NY, 2013

9/9/2013 was the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Flodden Field, but the events of 2014 (the referendum on Scottish independence, averted by a last-minute outbreak of common sense) make this book equally relevant in this year of grace. All the face-paint and the mournful dirge of “The Flowers of the Forest” shouldn’t blind us to the fact that when the Scots and English clashed, it was usually the Scots who started it. And James IV’s excuses for starting this particular set-to were more egregious than most. He had a check-list of ‘reasons’: his claim to the throne of England through his ancestress, St. Margaret of Scotland, and through his wife, Margaret Tudor; the fact that Margaret’s inheritance had not been paid (but she did not want to go to war on that account, and tried to talk James out of it); and, chiefly, because the French king asked him to. The situation was more complex than that, and Goodwin goes into more detail, but that is what it boils down to. And, in fact, he nearly succeeded.

“On 22 August 1513,” begins the Introduction,” 42,000 Scottish troops crossed the Tweed under the command of King James IV. It was the largest Scottish army ever to invade England.” That was 28 years to the day after the battle of Bosworth. To Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, the true victor of Flodden (aided by his sons), it must have seemed much like Bosworth Mark II, with himself in the position Henry Tudor had been. Henry was behind the lines because he was completely inexperienced in battle. Thomas Howard was there because he had too much experience, too many years. At 70, he no longer had the reflexes and strength of a young soldier. He was to watch as a brave but foolhardy king led a charge against him, getting to within “a spear’s length.” The topography was similar, as well. Bosworth was fought, at least in part, on marshy ground, Flodden was practically a swamp. Even with modern drainage, it is still quite soggy. James was defeated, says the

author, by the science of hydrogeology. (One important difference: Stanleys were at Flodden, but did not affect the outcome.)

James' own pride was a contributing factor. Had he accepted Howard's alternative suggestion, to fight at Millward, he might have won. But James wasn't going to be dictated to by a mere earl. Surrey didn't see it that way. Considering himself Henry VIII's deputy, he felt he should have been treated as such. Of course, he had argued differently when he was lieutenant of a previous Tudor, but we know what consistency is the hobgoblin of.

The long-term aftermath of the battle is known, culminating in the current tenuous union with England. In the short term, it was devastating to the Scots. The English force (approximately 26,000 men) lost only 4000; the Scots lost one-third of their troops. Goodwin feels that the Howards were not exactly chivalrous in allowing no quarter, but as Edward Howard pointed out, they didn't expect it from the Scots, and it was often not given in medieval battles. Towton is one example. (George Goodwin has also written about this battle, in *Fatal Colors: Towton 1461*, W.W. Norton, 2012) Whoever tries to characterize a person from a distance of 500 years may be completely off the mark, but Surrey reminds me of the plain-spoken General William T. Sherman: "War is war, and not popularity-seeking."

A gruesome aftermath was what happened to James Stuart's body during and after the battle. Goodwin describes his last moments:

...an arrow had embedded itself in the lower jaw of James IV...It didn't kill him, but it is likely that it disabled him sufficiently for the attacking billmen to move in and slash him with their weapons, virtually severing his left hand, and finally, mercifully, slicing him across the throat.

Mr. Goodwin goes into more detail of tactics and weaponry that most non-reenactors would need or want, but his description does point out that someone did not have to be 'hated' and 'despised for his crimes' to meet a bloody end. James' body was embalmed and taken to London, to a monastery at Richmond. He could not be buried there, as he died excommunicate. To his credit, Henry VIII lobbied the Pope to get him reinstated, but when this finally came through everyone seems to have lost interest. The 'last known resting place' of James's body may be under the greens of the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club. His head peregrinated separately, and just may be on the site of a London pub called The Red Herring. Yes—really!

A most interesting read for anyone interested in Scots, as well as English, history.

And a bit of truly trivial trivia: Among James IV's hobbies were dentistry and embroidery. Is that what "Renaissance Man" means.

Until our next, a quick Good-by.

~ToC~

# 2014 Annual Reports

## Chairman's Report

Jonathan Hayes

This year has seen the revitalization of our relationship with the Medieval Academy regarding their stewardship of the Schallek Fund. We have gotten abstracts of all the submissions for the bursaries from the Fund and a copy of the winning thesis will be made available for our nonfiction library.

I have also researched the possibility of reincorporating the Society in another state than New York, which is where we are incorporated now. If we could reincorporate in a state which did not have an income tax, it would reduce the reporting requirements for the Treasurer quite a bit—a good thing.

It currently looks as though we would have to completely dissolve the Society and reconstitute it elsewhere. This would not be feasible. I'm not satisfied with this conclusion and will continue my researches.

A great deal of my time has been spent in preparation for the AGM.

I have also started to reach out to other national branches. It seems we have similar problems and a mutual discussion should be beneficial to all.

I welcome any suggestions from the membership as to future directions for the American branch.

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## 2014 Membership Chair Report (September 2013 – September 2014):

Sally Keil

As of September 12, 2014 the Richard III Society—American Branch had a total active membership count of 430. Of these, 22 members were technically overdue in sending in their renewals: I give each member a series of notices and warnings before their membership is lapsed so as not to remove someone from the Society in error.

Over the past twelve months we have had 60 members decide to leave the Society; we have had 97 new members join.

Our membership breakdown is as follows:

- 44 family members
- 46 Fotheringhay members
- 5 Middleham members
- 1 Bosworth member
- 2 Plantagenet Angels
- 332 Individual members

Our members continue to be very generous! In the past twelve months we have received the following additional donations:

- 12 Judy Weinsoft Memorial Research Library
- 2 Morris McGee Keynote Speaker Fund
- 2 Schallek Special Projects Fund
- 33 General Fund

~ToC~

## Treasurer's Report

Diane Hoffman  
September 17, 2014

### Summary:

First, I would like to welcome Lisa Pince to the Board as our new Treasurer. Lisa is a registered nurse, who comes to us after retiring from Kaiser Permanente where she held a variety of managerial positions, most recently as Home Health and Hospice Service Director. She is used to handling multi-million dollar budgets. So she is well qualified to deal with our much smaller operation. I will be working with Lisa when she returns from a European trip after the AGM to ensure a smooth transition.

Next, some comments on the reports:

- **Assets 2013:** Calvert closed out the Social Money Market Fund because it was earning only pennies per year in interest and replaced it with the Calvert Ultra Short Income Fund, which at least has earnings that can be measured in dollars.
- **Income, Expenses, Balance Sheet 2013:** We paid for two-years-worth of UK Society memberships because they billed us late (in March 2013) for the 2012/2013 memberships, while billing us in November 2013 for the 2013/2014 memberships.
- **Income, Expenses, Balance Sheet 2014:** We will be billed for the 2014/2015 memberships after the record date of October 2<sup>nd</sup>. If the UK membership fee remains at £18 per US member, I expect this amount to be about \$13,000. These memberships are our largest single expense by far.
- **Budget 2015:** Membership seems to be holding steady, so I'm estimating dues at about the same level as all of 2013. We have not had much activity in the Sales Dept this year; I hope we'll see more in 2015.
- **All reports:** Membership dues are figured according to the IRS requirements, which means that only funds that cover the fair market value of benefits to members can be counted as dues. Any amount over that is counted as a gift. For the Richard III Society, the \$60 basic dues and each \$5 for additional family members is called dues on these reports, and any amount over that is counted as a gift. If not otherwise specified, the gift goes into the General Fund.

Finally, I would like to point out a volunteer opportunity. Most of the money in the Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund is for the **Schallek Special Projects Fund**, which is to be used to help pay for research projects at the high school and undergraduate student level as well as for special projects like the transcription of one of the Edward IV Rolls at the University of Pennsylvania. We need one or more members who would find worthy projects and students to fund. About \$2,000 per year from the earnings of the Bond Fund would be available. The volunteer(s) would work with the Board to determine who or what to fund.

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2013 Assets

Fund or Bank Acct	Beginning Balance Jan 1 2013	Mutual Fund Purch's	Mutual Fund Redemp's	Ending Balance Dec 31 2013	Total Earnings	Gain or Loss
Calvert Social Money Market Fund	\$5863.06	\$0.00	\$5863.11	\$0.00	\$0.05	\$0.00
Calvert Ultra Short Income - A	\$0.00	\$5863.11	\$0.00	\$5881.84	\$7.43	\$11.30
Vanguard Total Bond Mkt Index Fund	\$135117.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$132218.47	\$3635.73	(\$6534.53)
Chase Bank Checking Account	\$13503.00			\$14433.66	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chase Bank Savings Account	\$10351.08			\$10361.41	\$10.33	\$0.00
Paypal Account	\$4771.36			\$3285.34	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$169605.77			\$166180.72	\$3653.54	(\$6523.23)

## 2013 Balance Sheet (Income | Expenses)

Income	Detail	Amount	Totals
Dues			\$24869.40
Gifts	General Fund	\$6412.05	
	McGee Fund	\$15.00	
	Schallek Fund	\$242.59	
	Weinsoft Fund	\$308.00	
Gifts Total			\$6977.64
Investment Income	Dividends, Interest, Capital Gains Distributions		\$3653.54
AGM Income			\$7639.14
Sales Dept			\$1050.39
Total Income			\$44190.11
Expenses	Notes		
Board Expenses	Mostly office supplies		\$501.68
Conference Calls			\$291.31
Libraries			\$470.47
AGM Expense			\$5514.40
NY State Fees	Filing fee for state tax return		\$60.00
Ricardian Register Printing, Mailing; UK Mailing in US	UK Publications are mailed with Ricardian Register within US		\$6035.04
UK Society Membership Fees	Discounted rate of £18 per member; for years 2012/2013 (\$9531.81) & 2013/2014 (\$12,144.24)		\$21676.05
UK Publications, Shipping	From UK to US		\$4487.04
Publicity	Google Adwords		\$1205.91
Sales Dept	Purchase Inventory + Shipping expenses		\$707.03
Bank Fees	Wire transfer fees for UK payments		\$143.00
Total Expenses			\$41091.93
Income minus Expenses			\$3098.18
Net Assets, Jan 1 2013			\$169605.77
Other changes in Net Assets	Realized & Unrealized Gains & Losses		(\$6523.23)
Net Assets, Dec 31 2013			\$166180.72

## 2013 Balance Sheet Cont.

### Balance Sheet

Cash, savings, investments	\$16960 5.77	\$166180.72
Other assets	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total assets	\$16960 5.77	\$166180.72
Total liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net assets	\$16960 5.77	\$166180.72

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### 2014 Balance Sheet (Income | Expenses)

Income	Detail	Amount	Totals
Dues			\$14775.58
Gifts	General Fund	\$3001.31	
	McGee Fund	\$10.00	
	Schallek Fund	\$8.00	
	Weinsoft Fund	\$486.00	
Gifts Total			\$3505.31
Investment Income	Dividends, Interest, Capital Gains Distributions		\$2414.46
AGM Income	There will be some additional revenue from late registrations		\$4222.00
Publishing	Refund from BookMasters		\$77.86
Sales Dept			\$48.50
Total Income			\$25043.71
Expenses	Notes		
Conference Calls			\$102.69
AGM Expense	There will be some additional expenses by the end of the AGM		\$3624.54
NY State Fees	Filing fee for state tax return		\$60.00
Ricardian Register Printing, Mailing; UK Mailing in US	UK Publications are mailed with Ricardian Register within US		\$4748.71
UK Society Membership Fees	We will be billed for these fees after Oct 2nd		\$0.00

## 2014 Balance Sheet Cont.

UK Publications, Shipping	From UK to US	\$3422.87
Publicity	Google Adwords	\$671.97
Website	Domain Registration	\$85.97
Website	Domain Registration	\$85.97
Bank Fees	Includes wire transfer fees for UK payments	\$196.00
White Hart Society	We held their funds in trust for several years; this is final payout to them	\$5324.16
Total Expenses		\$18236.91
Income minus Expenses		\$6806.80
Net Assets, Jan 1 2014		\$166180.72
Other changes in Net Assets	Unrealized Gains & Losses	\$2384.96
Net Assets, Sep 15 2014		\$175372.48
Balance Sheet		
	Cash, savings, investments	\$166180.72
	Other assets	\$0.00
	Total assets	\$166180.72
	Total liabilities	\$0.00
	Net assets	\$166180.72

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### 2015 Budget

Income	Amount	Notes
Dues	\$25000.00	Membership seems to be holding steady for 2013, 2014
Gifts	\$6250.00	\$25,000 * 0.25; approximate ratio of gifts to dues
AGM 2015 Registrations & Sales	\$5800.00	This assumes we actually cover all our costs
Sales Dept	\$250.00	
Investment Income	\$3500.00	
Income Total	\$40800.00	
Expenses	Amount	Notes
AGM 2015	\$5800.00	Approximately what we spent in 2013, plus a little for inflation
Board Expenses	\$500.00	Office supplies, postage, software
Conference Calls	\$400.00	

## 2015 Budget Cont.

Libraries	\$500.00	Fiction and Non-fiction
NY State Fees	\$60.00	Annual tax filing fee
Ricardian Register Publishing & mailing UK publications	\$6100.00	Printing & mailing 4 issues of Ricardian Register; mailing UK publications with the Register
Memberships in UK Society	\$13000.00	This assumes UK membership fees remain at £18 per US member
Shipping for UK Publications, UK to US mailing house	\$4600.00	Shipping charges have not increased too much over past few years
Publicity	\$1200.00	Google Ads
Sales Dept	\$400.00	Replenish inventory
Bank Fees	\$200.00	Includes wire transfer fees
Expenses Total	\$32760.00	

### Editor's Report

Joan Szechtman

Coordination between the UK and US publications continues to work smoothly thanks to the behind the scenes efforts of Stephen York, UK Business and Distribution Manager and the US printing (Bookmasters Inc.) and distribution (Sungraphics) partners.

Readers of this publication have noticed of late that most editions have contained but one or two short articles. Should the article shortage continue, the publication schedule will vary from two to four editions per year in the following manner:

- Two edition year: March & September
- Three edition year: March, September, & December

The UK publications will continue to be distributed quarterly. If there is no June Register, the AGM Schedule and Registration will be inserted with the Bulletin and Journal. If there is no Register for December line will be added to the mailing label indicating such and the board reports will appear in the March Register.

~ToC~

### Sales Office Report

Charlie Jordan

Sales has largely been inactive from Dec 2013 to Oct 2014 due to the death of Charlie Jordan's partner.

Highlights include sales of approximately \$456.11 with expenses (calculated but reimbursement not yet requested) at approximately \$136.15.

Future challenges include changes in obtaining stock from the UK branch due to the outsourcing of their sales effort to a professional company. The US branch may have less latitude in arranging for volume/shipping discounts.

US stock is running low on many items. We will need to examine the US budget to determine whether we have sufficient money to invest in sales items.

Most sales/items do return a profit for the US group. Accounting continues to be challenge due to difficulties in identifying/categorizing exact cost per item on merchandise obtained from the UK branch.

# Chapters' Advisor Report

Nita Musgrave

During the past year we were happy to have a new chapter formed in Virginia. The driving force behind it was Bob Pfile who was himself a fairly new member. I was able to advise Bob on setting up bylaws. Also I told him about the operation of the Illinois Chapter to give him some hopefully helpful ideas.

Our Membership Chair, Sally Keil, has been forwarding to me the email addresses of any new members enquiring about chapters in their areas or wanting to be in touch with other members. I have contacted them and offered to help them set up a chapter and provide them with advice. Hopefully some of these members will go on to set up chapters. During July I sent out an email to all chapter contacts asking them to prepare a yearend report to be sent to me by September.

~ToC~

## Illinois Chapter Report

Janice Weiner, Chairman

We have had three meetings in 2014 so far and plan to have at least one more, besides planning a holiday event. In March we met discuss some ideas for activities. We are thinking of again donating some materials on Richard III to public libraries. We also heard from a member who went to St. Louis for the symposium on the discovery of Richard's bones. Another member started a discussion about the case on where Richard's bones were to be reburied. Other topics also were discussed. In May we discussed a play that an Evanston, IL theater will be putting on early next year, Michael Hick's doubts about the identity of the bones found in the car park, a program on the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, the talk another member gave to her Sherlockian group (a group of Sherlock Holmes devotees) on the mystery of the princes, and a number of other topics, including changes to our by-laws. On August 25<sup>th</sup> four members met to go over some suggestions for the entertainment for the AGM. One of our members had the idea that there was enough talent in the society's membership to provide the entertainment at the AGM and volunteered to organize it. Our local will discuss how the AGM went at another meeting.

We schedule a yearly date to visit the Renaissance Faire in Wisconsin. We have visited some local attractions, though they may not have been related to Richard III. Our group has watched various videos on topics related to Richard, if not on Richard himself. We often discuss books that members feel would be of interest to the group. We are expecting to schedule our winter holiday get-together traditionally hosted by one of our Downers Grove members. A number of our members attend the AGM every year. Our group has hosted three in the time I have been a member. Our local dues are \$5.00 and we keep an eye on having all our members be national members as required by the national by-laws. We have about nine members who come regularly to meetings. We have been contacted by some national members for information on our local and are hoping we might recruit a few more local members. We have been putting out an informal newsletter twice a year and if anyone is interested in seeing it or on information on our chapter please contact me. My email is: [jlweiner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jlweiner@sbcglobal.net).

## Michigan Chapter Report

Larry Irwin, Moderator

The Michigan Chapter of the Richard III Society is proud to remain one of the strongest chapters of the American Branch. We have a total of 22-23 dues paying membership and a regular core group of 8-10 members throughout the metropolitan Detroit area that regularly attend our quarterly meetings.

Our treasury account, managed by Charles Ficteau, has been over \$1000 since we hosted the 2010 AGM (earlier AGMs in 1994 and 2002), which generated a profit of several hundred dollars. Every year we donate \$100.00 to Little Malvern Priory as part of the Ricardian Churches Restoration Fund. We also make an annual contribution for the AGM.

Our newsletter, *The Ragged Staff*, has been produced by several different editors on a quarterly basis for more than 20 years. We continue to have most of our quarterly meetings at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, occasionally at the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham or at one of our member's offices. A summer highlight of our year, the coronation banquet has been an annual tradition since 1993, on a night close to Richard III's coronation on July 6. The last two years we have held the meeting at The Oxford Inn in Royal Oak. The 2013 coronation banquet featured a presentation by Dianne Batch on the English royal dukes, while at the 2014 coronation banquet; Larry Irwin spoke on the new biography of George, Duke of Clarence.

We have a traveling library exhibit, managed by Dianne Batch and Linda Peecher, which annually travels to at least three different public libraries in the metropolitan Detroit area and attracts a new member or two each year. We have refreshed the exhibit with new materials in recent years.

We will have our second medieval feast at our October 2014 meeting. Our October 2013 meeting featured a report by chapter members who attended the Richmond AGM, while the January 2014 meeting featured a presentation on William Marshal. Our April 2014 meeting had no set program, other than a discussion of the controversy surrounding Richard's reburial. We try to attend Detroit performances of Shakespeare's *Richard III* to spread the word about the historic Richard III; we have attended other exhibits related to the medieval period. We have added several new members in the last year, thanks surely to the excitement surrounding the finding of Richard's bones in Leicester.

~ToC~

## New England Chapter Report

Sally Keil, Moderator

We typically hold our chapter meetings three times per year and also get together for a Christmas luncheon. There are 52 Society members that live in the New England region (NH, ME, VT, CT, MA); of those, approximately 10-12 are regular attendees of our meetings. Our dues are \$10/year, and that money is used to provide honorariums to the people we ask to address us on topics of interest. We have also made donations to The Innocence Project.

We serve a great lunch at each meeting! Brought by our members, luncheon items include scrumptious sandwiches, salads, chips/dips, cakes and pies. Following the business meeting, we launch into the main agenda item. We were extremely fortunate this year to have a presentation from Mr. David Marks, a surgeon and leading expert in scoliosis from Great Britain. (As an interesting aside, Mr. Marks explained to us that in Great Britain, physicians carry the title Dr. and surgeons carry the title Mr., despite their medical school training. Originally, surgeons belonged to the same guild as barbers, thus traditionally

classifying them as non-physicians.) Although Mr. Marks was originally scheduled to present to our group via Skype, he was in Boston on holiday at the time of our meeting and agreed to speak to us in person.

In Mr. Marks' presentation, "The Spinal Deformity of King Richard III," he discussed scoliosis as it is seen and treated today, as well as how the condition may have been approached and treated in Richard's day.

At our previous meeting, we logged onto the Internet so as to watch the YouTube video of John Ashdown-Hill's presentation at the U of Leicester conference on the Four Strands of Evidence. (We searched for a location for our meetings that offered us free Wi-Fi and the computer equipment/screen necessary to be able to play videos, make Skype calls (Philippa Langley spoke to us soon after the announcement of the finding of Richard's remains), go onto the Internet, etc.)

~ToC~

## Tidewater Chapter (DC-MD-VA) Report

Bob Pfile, Moderator

Despite this being our first year, the Tidewater Chapter held several successful events.

Our first gathering was, in fact, a field trip to the Folger Library in Washington DC. On February 5, 2014, five of us met to hear a presentation by Turi King and Matthew Morris concerning their work on the Greyfriars Project. This not only gave us the opportunity to hear a very informative talk, but enabled us to meet each other.

Our first "real" meeting was held on March 22. We met at the beautiful Maymont Estate in Richmond, Virginia. Following a very informative tour of the Maymont Mansion and Estate, we heard a talk on Henry VI presented by Dr. Leigh-Ann Craig, Professor of Medieval History, at Virginia Commonwealth University. We had a total of 16 people attend this first meeting which included five of Dr. Craig's students.

Then on June 21, 2014, we met at the Charles Beatley Library in Alexandria, Virginia. There were 13 members and guests attending. The program consisted of a showing of the Kultur DVD "Richard III - Martyr or Monster." After the film was a short discussion/critique of the film by those present. We also held our first business meeting at this event. At this first business meeting, we elected a slate of officers, established the amount of annual dues at \$20, and decided to meet quarterly.

We currently have approximately 15 people who have voiced an interest in becoming members of our chapter. Our next meeting will again be held at the Charles Beatley Library in Alexandria, Virginia on November 1 at 2:00 PM. The topic of this meeting will be a report on the Annual General Meeting held in Portland, Oregon in September.

We are certainly interested in attracting more members. Those interested in joining the Tidewater Chapter should contact Bob Pfile at [rpfile43@gmail.com](mailto:rpfile43@gmail.com).

Editor's note: And now for another satire from a prolific author and Ricardian.

## Row, Row, Row Your Boat . . .

Sandra Heath Wilson

*It is October 1483. Imagine the western bank of the flooding Severn, endless rain, relentless gale, pitiless river, one hapless army of Welshmen under the Stafford knot, one faithless bishop... and one hopeless, helpless, feckless, speechless Harry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, cousin of the new Yorkist king, Richard III.*

The furious duke found his tongue at last. "You moron, Morton, you promised me a fleet of barges! What the feck's the matter with you? Can't you get anything right?"

"Well, Your Grace, I—"

"Where are all the barges, mm?" Then the twenty-eight-year-old royal duke mimicked the elderly Bishop of Ely's smooth, always reasonable tone. "Oh, we can't use a bridge, Your Grace, it's too hazardous. Richard's men are everywhere. We'll cross secretly, using barges."

"Yes, but—"

"And that is the best you can do?" A quivering ducal finger indicated a battered, seaweed-strewn rowing boat that had drifted downstream on the flood and was caught up in the young willows fringing the tidal river. No longer a fringe, they were at present under water.

Buckingham was livid. "For Pete's sake, Morton, I've decided not to rebel, but to rally to my cousin the king after all! So I need to be over there, not stuck here like three left legs on a donkey!" The beringed digit now jabbed eastward towards the far bank, where there was an inn—the *Happy Boatman*—with a number of Severn trows tugging at their moorings outside. Trows were splendid vessels, developed solely for this dangerous waterway, but they were of no use to him while they remained over there!

John Morton, who resembled a desiccated old fox, saw him move even closer to the water's edge. It was tempting to let him tumble in, but perhaps it wouldn't be wise in full view of the fellow's army. "Take care, Your Grace!"

Buckingham stepped hastily away, but his spur caught on the snake of slimy rope that should have been stretched right across to the far bank for the raft ferry—long since swept away. He staggered backward, and winded himself against the trunk of a gnarled old cider apple tree, which he struck with such force that a shower of maggoty fruit splattered down into the soggy Severn clay. He also jarred his back on the numerous pointed folly bells adorning his large leather shoulder purse.

"Plague take it all!" he screeched, jumping up and down in a fury. He started to snatch off the purse, meaning to toss it aside in a right royal show of pettishness. Then he thought better of it, and to Morton's horror, grabbed his purse instead. But true aim was never one of Buckingham's strong points, and instead of flinging the bishop's purse inland, he somehow managed to hurl it into the river instead.

Thunderstruck, the Lancastrian bishop stared as his precious purse swirled and bobbed away downstream on the fleet, muddy water.

Buckingham was shocked too. "Oh. I say, Morters, bad luck. I didn't mean it, honest. So sorry. Was there anything important in it?"

The confounded bishop could only stand there. The purse contained the letter he had spent so long composing and then tricking this idiot into signing! Words failed him. It was bad enough being in Buckingham's custody, without having to endure his brainlessness as well. And to think, the fellow had actually believed for a while that he was destined to take

the throne from his cousin Richard III! Sweet God above, Richard could run rings around him without even getting out of bed.

“Oh, lordy, Morters, that’s the letter gone west, eh?”

“Another can be written, Your Grace.” But behind a hastily donned mask of blandness, the plot-riddled bishop was all but spitting feathers.

“Indeed, indeed. I must be sure that Richard knows I’ve seen the error of my ways.” Buckingham began to feel a little better about everything. He should never have taken such silly umbrage towards Richard, and for no good reason really. Now Richard thought he was in rebellion, when it was not so. Well, not any more.

True, a teensy but temporary thought of it had entered the proceedings, but it was over now, and the army of Welshmen gathered under the Stafford knot was going to rally to the king’s standards against the expected invasion by the Lancastrian upstart, Henry Tudor. As soon as Richard knew this, Buckingham was confident he’d hear his dear cousin out and forgive him. They’d soon be chums again.

As for Tudor, he was nothing without the support of the Stafford knot. His mongrel claim to the throne was iffy to say the least, and he had b-gg-r all chance of defeating Richard on his own. He had never amounted to anything but a useful addition to the Buckingham ranks. That was Harry Stafford’s honest opinion. Anyway, it was over with, and all that mattered now was resuming his cosiness with Richard.

Morton’s vulpine face remained a picture of mixed emotions. If Buckingham believed an offer of reconciliation was contained in the letter, yet again he proved himself to be eleven eggs short of a dozen. What the letter actually contained, and what this knot-brained Stafford had signed his name to, was a vow of servitude to Henry Tudor, whom Morton had decided to put in Richard’s place.

On falling out with the king, Buckingham had first said he wanted the throne for himself, then he said he would help put Henry on it instead, but now he was intent upon crawling back to his royal cousin again. Well, enough was enough. Henry Tudor had never intended to back Harry Stafford in anything. Use his support, yes, but support him? No!

Buckingham was to be isolated, with no chance at all of slipping back into Richard’s good books. Hence the letter, which would have found its way conveniently into royal hands. Now a second such missive had to be penned, damn it, and Buckingham tricked into signing it all over again. Oh, this was tedious! And time was short. Richard III was not a man to hang around, hands in pockets, whistling the latest hymn, but would be on the move right now. And when he moved, he moved!

Morton managed to respond at last. “Earthly things are of no consequence, Your Grace. The letter can be replaced. It is only to the joys of the Kingdom of Heaven that we must look.”

“That’s good of you, Morters. I really should learn to curb my temper. My confessor is giving me management lessons, so when I go back to court, I’ll be a good boy at all times. I like it at Richard’s court. He has such style. Good singing voice too, although one has to ply him with wine first. Not easy when he hardly drinks at all. They have some damnably good bawdy songs up in Yorkshire, you know. You wouldn’t think he had it in him. Oh, I hate being in the wilds of Brecknock.”

“Indeed.” Having been imprisoned by this lout at Brecknock, Morton couldn’t help but agree. As to Richard III’s style, John Morton would as soon strangle the usurping fellow. Well, that was not strictly fair, because Richard hadn’t usurped anything—Henry Tudor would be doing that. Richard had been invited to take the throne because the hitherto candidate was discovered to be illegitimate, as were all Richard’s elder brother’s children.

Edward IV had been a bigamist. Hanky-Panky was his middle name. But that wasn't the point, because the present situation, with the Yorkist Duke of Gloucester wearing the crown, was not to be suffered by Lancastrians worth their salt. Oh, indeed not.

The problem was that Richard was not a man to be manipulated, which meant no juicy plums for the undeserving. Of whom there were many, Morton's good self included. So, it was time for the House of Lancaster to be top dog again, and that meant Henry Tudor. The fellow was no oil painting, nor was he the warmest of souls, whereas Richard—plague take him—was a handsome chap and very engaging.

But with Tudor actually crowned, who was going to look at his face? No one, Morton prayed, because that face was awful. A good deal of spin was going to be necessary to promote him as the new hope of England. Especially as he was Welsh anyway. Still, it had to be done. Besides, he, Morton, had been promised the Archbishopric of Canterbury. For that particular plum, he'd plot to put a French ferret on the throne.

Buckingham took a deep breath and ventured to the edge of the riverbank again to look at the rowing boat. "I suppose I can send two captains across to the inn."

"I... um..."

"If you've a suggestion, out with it, Morters."

Morton didn't want anyone on the other side of the river now, he needed to get back to that inn they'd passed on this side, to get His Grace the Buffoon of Buckingham sozzled enough to sign another letter without reading it properly. The bishop cleared his throat. "I, er... Well, perhaps the weather is too bad after all. Attempting to cross will be very hazardous indeed. There's a fine inn back a mile or so behind us, the Olde Welsh Weasyl, maybe we should go back there, sit by the fire, have a good meal of fried seaweed and then rest?"

Buckingham shook his head. "No, no, I want to get my lads over the river. Two captains will... No, on the other hand, perhaps I should go across. The sight of me, in my highborn splendour, will surely galvanise them all into action. They'll be over here in a trice, and my stout fellows will soon be over there."

Morton clutched at straws. "But, Your Grace, the bore may come at any moment."

"Boar? Richard?"

"The tidal bore, the great wave that sweeps upriver twice in twenty-four hours."

"More water? Oh, dear God above. Well, I'll be off over there right now. You can come too."

"Me? Oh, but—"

"A duke and a bishop, we'll soon have the prawns eating out of our hands."

"Pawns."

"Mm? That's what I said. Prawns."

Morton gave up, but when he looked at the racing river, and the October murk that was beginning to close in over Gloucestershire, he didn't fancy entrusting his hide to a small rowing boat that didn't look fit for a pond, let alone the Severn in flood. As if to illustrate the lunacy of Buckingham's plan, the tempest blustered even more spitefully, flapping the two men's cloaks around like wild things.

(To anyone local, that sudden increase of the wind would have been a warning of the bore's imminence, but our 'heroes' did not know this.)

Buckingham's bone-headed mind was made up—for the time being at least—and he squelched back to his army to tell his commanders what he meant to do.

His assembled force of bedraggled Welshmen was fed up to the back teeth with the great Harry Stafford and his dodgy plots, counter-plots and counter-counter-plots. They didn't like Morton either. In fact, they despised both men, and would far rather be at home. Oh, yes, it was that bad in Buckingham's ranks. There had already been desertions. If he thought they intended to cross this demon of a river, he was very much mistaken. As soon as his back was turned, they'd be off on their toes for Wales, with suitably insulting farewell gestures and a harmonised anthem of "Sucks to you, Boyo!"

And so Harry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, and John Morton, Bishop of Ely, embarked in the wobbling rowing boat, manned the oars, and began to row with all their might. They were immediately washed downstream, of course, because the current was so strong. But then the heralded bore swept inland as well, and they were driven upstream again, gliding helplessly past the echoing empty spot where the army had been.

Buckingham was past caring. "Row, man, row!" he cried desperately, as the bishop caught another crab.

"I am rowing!"

"You need rhythm. See? Row – row – row..."

But Morton gave up, shipped his oars and huddled in his sodden robes. The thought of jumping into the water and swimming for it was almost too much to resist. Unfortunately, he couldn't swim. If it was the last thing he did, he'd be avenged on Richard for saddling him with this weak-chinned, feck-witted liability.

Buckingham continued to row manfully, but to no avail. They were going to be swept inland all the way to Tewkesbury. Maybe further. Oh, to hell with it. If he managed to get out of this demi-bucket on to dry land again, he'd stick to his original plan and rebel against Richard. Yes, that was it. "Morton, when we get to an inn, remind me I need to write another letter."

"Letter, Your Grace?" Morton was filled with trepidation. "To whom?"

"Tudor. To tell him he'll have to rally to my standards after all. I'm going to rid England of Cousin Richard."

At that point the bishop finally lost it. With a choked sob, he leapt to his feet, almost capsizing the boat, and brandished his fist to the northeast, in which direction he believed Richard to be. Then he howled a vile malediction skyward to his Maker, and leapt into the welcoming arms of the river. He disappeared beneath the surface, leaving only a thread of bubbles.

Buckingham sat there, gobsmacked. "I say, Morters, was it something I said?"

*Unfortunately for Richard and for English history, John Morton somehow made it ashore and lived to scheme another day. Such a shame, because the thought of him floating out to sea to provide a meal for a mean-minded shoal of Severn hake produces a warm glow of satisfaction.*

*Harry Stafford ended up in Cousin Richard's unforgiving hands, and paid the ultimate price in Salisbury a month later. He was still changing his mind to the very end. Mid-sentence, even.*

*The rowing boat, you ask? Well, I believe it's still seen, drifting up and down the Severn with the October tides, looming out of the mist and slipping away again into the gloom. Some insist it's only the seagulls from the estuary, but others hear a lonely voice calling out in puzzlement. "Morters? Morters? Was it something I said?"*

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