



The Yorkist Richard III whose activities as a younger man led to his betrayal at Bosworth

This alone would have been anathema to Stanley but it was accompanied by an alarming series of appointments in the duchy of Lancaster. John Huddleston, a kinsman of the Harringtons, was made sheriff of Cumberland, steward of Penrith and warden of the west march. John Pilkington, brother-in-law of Robert Harrington, was steward of Rochdale and became Richard III's chamberlain; Richard Ratcliffe, Robert Harrington's wife's uncle, was the King's deputy in the west march and became sheriff of Westmorland. Stanley felt squeezed, his power threatened and his influence diminished.

With Richard at Bosworth were a close-knit group of gentry who served in the royal household: men like John Huddleston, Thomas Pilkington and Richard Ratcliffe. They were men whom Richard could trust, but they were also the very men who were instrumental in reducing Stanley's power in the northwest. By Richard's side, possibly carrying his standard, was James Harrington. When Richard III sped past the Stanleys at Bosworth Field he presented them with an opportunity too tempting to refuse.

During the 1470s Richard had become the dominant power in the north as Edward's lieutenant. He served his brother faithfully and built up a strong and stable following. The leading gentry families could serve royal authority without an intermediary. The losers in this new dispensation were the two northern magnates, Henry Percy and Thomas Stanley. Richard challenged their power and at Bosworth they got their revenge. When Richard rode into battle, with Harrington by his side, loyalty, fidelity and trust rode with him. Like the golden crown on Richard's head they came crashing down to earth. **11**

compensation of the nearby property of Farleton, and also land in west Yorkshire, but by the time Edward died in 1483 Stanley had still not handed over the lucrative and extensive rights that Robert Harrington claimed in Blackburn and Amounderness.

One thing, however, had changed. The leading gentry families in the region had found a 'good lord' in Richard. He had been made chief steward of the duchy in the north in place of Warwick and used his power of appointment to foster members of the gentry and to check the power of Stanley. Only royal power could do this and Richard, as trusted brother of the King, used it freely. The Dacres, Huddlestons, Pilkingtons, Ratcliffes and Parrs, all related by marriage to the Harringtons, had received offices in the region and saw Richard, not Stanley, as their lord.

When Richard took the throne he finally had the power to do something for James Harrington. The evidence shows that he planned to reopen the question of the Hornby inheritance.

## JOURNEYS

### BOOKS

**Richard III and the Death of Chivalry** by David Hipshon (*The History Press, 2009*)

To buy this book from BBC History Bookstore for £16.50 (RRP £25) turn to page 72

**Richard III: A Royal Enigma** by Sean Cunningham (*The National Archives, 2003*); **Bosworth 1485: Psychology of a Battle** by Michael K Jones (*Tempus, 2002*); **Richard III: A Medieval Kingship** by John Gillingham, ed. (*Collins and Brown, 1993*)

### PLACE TO VISIT

**Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre**, Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire has walks, exhibitions and information on the latest research. Tel: 01455 290429 [www.bosworthbattlefield.com](http://www.bosworthbattlefield.com)



### NEXT MONTH

Read how the consequences of the Battle of Bosworth played out on the successor to Henry VII, the young King Henry VIII, as we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the accession of this most famous of Tudor monarchs to the throne

BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY/ALAMY/ARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

### 1471

Landing in Yorkshire, **Edward reclaims the throne and kills Warwick** at the Battle of Barnet. Edward marches to meet Margaret and at the battle of Tewkesbury defeats her, kills her son and finally executes Henry VI. His second reign begins and peace is restored.

### 1483

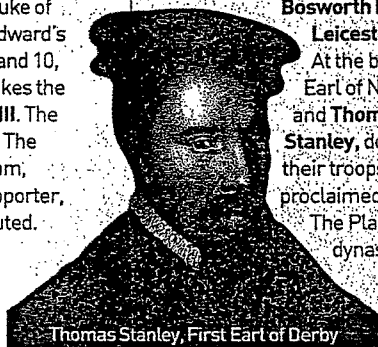
**Edward IV dies** in his bed at the age of 40. His brother, Richard Duke of Gloucester, puts Edward's two sons, aged 12 and 10, in the Tower and takes the throne as **Richard III**. The Princes disappear. The Duke of Buckingham, Richard's chief supporter, rebels and is executed.

### 1485

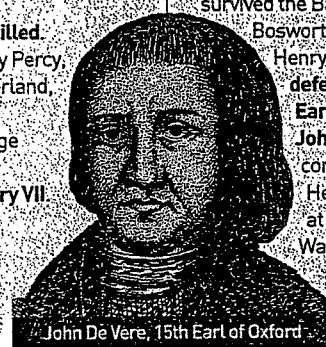
Henry Tudor lands in Wales and claims the throne. **Richard meets him at the Battle of Bosworth Field near Leicester and is killed.** At the battle Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, and Thomas, Lord Stanley, do not engage their troops. Henry is proclaimed **King Henry VII**. The Plantagenet dynasty ends.

### 1487

At the **Battle of Stoke Field** some of Richard's supporters, who had survived the Battle of Bosworth, challenge Henry Tudor and are defeated by the **Earl of Oxford, John de Vere**, the commander of Henry's vanguard at Bosworth. The Wars of the Roses come to an end.



Thomas Stanley, First Earl of Derby



John De Vere, 15th Earl of Oxford

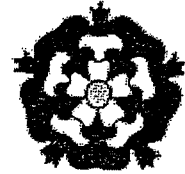
## Henry VII early actions table

Use this table to record ideas from the washing line activity and discussion

Problem	Points to note	Henry's actions
<p>Money</p> <p>Henry didn't have extensive resources. He owed 10,000 crowns to the Duke of Brittany and owed money to Charles VIII, King of France. He had had to leave hostages in France to show his good faith and intention to pay. He needed money to govern and to enable him to live in the manner of a king.</p>		
<p>Opponents at Bosworth</p> <p>What should Henry do with those who had fought against him at Bosworth, e.g Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey?</p>		
<p>Yorkist threats</p> <p>Potential claimants to the throne included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Edward Earl of Warwick, the 10 year old son of George, duke of Clarence (brother of both Edward IV and Richard III)</li> <li>b) The 7 sons of Edward IV's sister, Elizabeth de la Pole, including John de la Pole, earl of Lincoln who had been named as Richard III's heir, following the death of his son in 1484</li> </ul>		
<p>Reward supporters</p> <p>Henry was obliged to help those who had assisted him in his fight for the throne. These included those who had joined him in exile, first in Brittany and then in France:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jasper Tudor</li> <li>• John de Vere, earl of Oxford</li> <li>• Morton</li> <li>• Fox</li> <li>• Bray</li> <li>• Thomas Lovell (NOT Francis Lovell, who rebelled against Henry, 1486)</li> </ul> <p>Also, there were those who had helped Henry on his return to England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhys ap Thomas</li> <li>• William Stanley</li> </ul>		

Deal with those of UNCERTAIN loyalty and the YORKISTS who did not fight at Bosworth The Earl of Northumberland, one of the leading northern nobles, had stayed on the sidelines in the battle		
Coronation The symbolic moment of becoming KING, crowned in a Cathedral before the magnates of the land and then acclaimed king. This would give legitimacy and authority to Henry's rule.		
Calling Parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To meet the representatives of the political nation</li> <li>• To raise money</li> <li>• To pass the ACT OF SETTLEMENT</li> <li>• To pass laws that were required</li> </ul>		
Marriage to Elizabeth Symbolic of the ending of the Wars of the Roses. Henry had promised to do this in a cathedral in France on Christmas Day 1483 and it had helped him to gain the support or at least the neutrality of certain Yorkists. Marriage was also vital if Henry was to produce a male heir, thus providing for the succession of his family line to the English throne.		
<p>Make a note here, from the washing-line activity, of the order of priority given to each of Henry's problems:</p> <p>1) 2) 3) 4) 5) 6) 7) 8) 9) 10) 11)</p>		

## Henry VII



### Dealing with the Yorkist threat:

#### Those with claims:

- Earl of Warwick - made a ward and placed in the Tower
- Earl of Lincoln - asked to join Council

#### Early threats

- Lovel and Stafford Brothers (April 1486)
- Simnel - 1487 - (Battle of Stoke - June 1487). Dangerous as early in the reign and had backing from Margaret of Burgundy, the Earl of Kildare and the Earl of Lincoln (among others). Had 2,000 German mercenaries and many Irish troops.

#### What did Henry do?

- Dated his reign from August 21<sup>st</sup> allowing Acts of attainder to be passed against those who had fought against him.
- Arranged a Papal Bull which excommunicated those who rebelled against him (these were read out on the eve of the Battles of Stoke and Blackheath as a deterrent).
- Used bonds and recognisances to deter potential rebels - e.g. the mayor of Winchelsea was bound over for £1000 in Feb 1487 as were many others whom Henry distrusted in the run up to Stoke.
- Put Elizabeth Woodville in a nunnery and confiscated her lands in 1487 - he did not trust her, despite her being his mother-in-law!
- Paraded the real Earl of Warwick through the streets of London
- A Royal Proclamation said that anyone spreading rumours about Simnel should be put in the stocks.
- Personally led the muster of troops and planning for Stoke (he based himself at Kenilworth Castle in the run up to Stoke and managed to raise approximately 15,000 troops).
- Punished those involved - Henry was relatively lenient after Stoke as he did not want to antagonise the northern nobles - 33 gentry had their lands attainted and paid fines. Lord Scrope of Bolton and Sir Edmund Hastings had to pay large bonds (£3000 and £2000).
- Rewarded those who helped or did not show sympathy with the rebels - Henry travelled around the north and Midlands in the aftermath of the Battle at Stoke and knighted 70 men in the region.
- Tribunal in Star Chamber set up in 1487 to deal with the problem of retaining.