

# RICHARD III

BY

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The Question of this class: Who is the “real” Richard III

“Success [in the medieval period] was measured in the ability to take a crown and keep it.” Tim Stanley in *History Today*, April 2013

Web site defenders:

<http://www.richardiii.net>

<http://www.richardiiimuseum.co.uk>

**Allison Weir, *Princes in the Tower*:** good history and a good read. She uses fifteenth-century sources to present convincing evidence that we can discover the truth about the deaths of the princes and the character of King Richard III.

## Connection between The Hundred Years War and The Wars of the Roses

The **Hundred Years' War** was a series of conflicts waged from 1337 to 1453 between the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of France for control of the French throne.

It began in the reign of King Edward III (1346) and ended during the reign of Henry VI. Two years later, the War of the Roses began (1455).



## In Short: Wars of the Roses

The **Wars of the Roses** were a series of dynastic wars fought between supporters of two rival branches of the royal **House of Plantagenet**: the houses of **Lancaster** and **York** (whose heraldic symbols were the red and the white rose, respectively) for the throne of England.

The Names of "Lancaster" and "York" are derived from these cities, the corresponding duchies\* had little to do with these cities. (\*territory under a duke or duchess)

They were fought in several sporadic episodes for roughly thirty years, between **1455 and 1485**, although there was related fighting both before and after this period.

They resulted from the social and financial troubles following the Hundred Years War.

The final victory went to a relatively remote Lancastrian claimant, **Henry Tudor**, who defeated the last Yorkist king **Richard III** and married Edward VI's daughter Elizabeth of York to unite the two houses. The House of Tudor subsequently ruled England and Wales for 117 years.

## Sons of King Edward III (1312-1377) The Last Plantagenet King

### Edward (his oldest son)\*

Pre-deceased his father the King so that his son, **Richard II** (1377-1399) became King on the death of his grandfather, Edward III.

### John of Gaunt (his third son)

Duke of Aquitaine and duke of Lancaster, styled king of Castile and León (1340-1399), prince and steward of England. His son was Henry Bolingbroke became **Henry IV** (1366-1413)

Richard II  King Henry IV

Deposed by

\*called the "Black Prince"

## King Edward III Followed by:

- Richard II—Deposed 1399
- Henry IV—1399-1413
- Henry V—1413-1422
- Henry VI—1422; deposed 1461
- Edward IV—1461; deposed 1470
- Henry VI—restored 1470; then murdered 1471
- Edward IV—restored 1471
- Edward V—(the prince in the tower) murdered 1483 (?)
- Richard III—1483-1485

# Three Women and the roles they played in the Wars of the Roses

## Margaret of Anjou

Married to Henry VI;  
One of the major  
players in the Wars of  
the Roses;  
Led the Lancastrian  
forces;  
Tried to place her son  
Edward on the throne;  
Held in captivity under  
the victorious Edward  
IV;  
Finally returned to  
France when they paid  
her ransom.



## Elizabeth Woodville

Wife of King Edward IV;

Mother of the two  
princes who were killed  
in the tower.

She had previously  
been married, and her  
marriage to Edward  
was a secret one.



## Major Battles 1455-1485

Seventeen Major Battles were fought:

1455: first St. Albans; opening battle

1459: two battles (Sept. and Oct.)

1460: two battles (July and December)

1461: four battles (Feb. 2 and 17; Mar. 28 and 29)

1464: two battles (April and May)

1469: one battle

1470: one battle

1471: two battles (April and May)

1485: one battle (effectively ended the Wars and united the two houses  
by the marriage of Henry Tudor and Elizabeth of York)

Significant Battle in terms of Shakespeare's  
*Richard III*

The opening of the play takes place when King Edward IV is on the throne. The Battle of **Tewkesbury**, that put him there with a Yorkist victory, took place in May 1471.

Edward's brothers were Clarence, and Gloucester (Richard III)