MUNE IV

Joint Crisis Committee: War of the Roses
Welcome from your Crisis Director and Chairs

Dear Delegates of Wars of the Roses JCC Committee,

Wars have been a part of our common history for as long as time has been recorded. However, one of the wars that has influenced literature, art, and the human imagination continues to be the Wars of the Roses, a one hundred year series of battles and revolts over the English crown. The Wars of the Roses has inspired many, and the popular TV series Game of Thrones is directly based on this war of dynastic rivalry. As delegates in this JCC, you will have several questions to consider. What havoc will your side, whether Lancaster or York, wreck on England and her lands? Which dynasty will ultimately take over the throne? How will you be able to both command armies and maneuver assassination attempts? With many interesting and Machiavellian characters, this committee will be sure to enthrall and enchant. The future of England and her coffers is in your hands. We are here to serve as resources, for both needs in and out of committee. We cannot wait to see you here at Emory University and show you the best that Atlanta has to offer. If you have any questions about the historical background of the committee, questions about your character, or simply want to know the best place to get coffee and brunch around campus, we are your guides. Do not hesitate to contact us at any point, and we look forward to meeting you and seeing what nefarious and ingenious plans you come with!

Sincerely,

Maria Alvarez, maalvar@emory.edu, Joint Crisis Director
Camille Vinogradov, cvinogr@emory.edu, Chair, Lancaster
Kaitlyn Posa, kaitlyn.marie.posa@emory.edu, Chair, York
Rules & Procedures

Committee

This committee will run as a typical crisis committee, with interactions between committee members, dais staff, and behind-the-scenes crisis staff.

Communication

Communication will be conducted through traditional paper notes (no computers allowed in committee). Delegates should have with them appropriate paper on which to compose public and joint private directives, while they will be provided with small, individual legal pads by the dais staff on which to compose private directives and notes to crisis. At regular time intervals determined by the dais, a staff member will collect each delegate’s entire legal pad, along with any fully prepared private joint directives, so that crisis may respond accordingly. We expect thorough but concise notes to be sent through crisis. Notes between individuals and to the dais on procedural matters may be on scrap paper.

Debate

There will be no formal speakers list in this committee as the dais expects delegates to propose the appropriate caucuses for informal debate. Sufficient debate, such as moderated caucuses, question & answer panels, or 2 for 2 against, is expected before moving into voting procedure on public documents. No cross talk is allowed during debate as delegates should leave the room or rely on notes for any private discussions.

Documents

Directives, communiqués, and press releases to be put before the committee as a whole will need at least 20% of attending delegate’s signatures to be submitted to the dais. There must be separate motions to introduce, debate, and move into voting procedure on all documents. The dais reserves the right to limit the number of documents on the floor at a given time. Public documents may be passed by a “yes” vote from 50% + 1 of the body in attendance.

Language and Attire

The official language for business in this committee is English. Western Business attire is expected.

Final Notes

Please come prepared with background knowledge of the committee topic and parliamentary procedure. We will be more than happy to help if any confusion arises. Feel free to email us with any questions.
Background

Overview:

The Wars of the Roses were a series of dynastic clashes between rival families descended from the House of Plantagenet: The House of Lancaster and the House of York. Tensions arose after 1450, when the English King of the House of Lancaster, King Henry VI, had his first bout of mental illness and went into a catatonic state for over a year. His wife, Queen Margaret of Anjou, attempted to hold on to the royal family’s power over the country with the help of her allies. At the same time, the politically savvy and militarily successful Richard, Duke of York was discontent with the lack of leadership from King Henry VI, and began scheming to take power for himself.

What followed is a series of conflicts and clashes – military battles fought between the House of Lancaster (represented by a red rose) and the House of York (represented by a white rose) and their respective allies. Members of the family and their friends assassinated and imprisoned one another, spread rumors and lies, and struggled to either defend their claim to the Crown or take it from the other.

Thirty years later, the ascent of Henry Tudor marked the end of the conflict that had ravaged England and thrown the country into disarray and violence for decades. In this committee, we will pit both sides of this conflict against each other, as each side vies for power and seeks to rewrite history.

Historical Context:

Both houses claimed the English throne through descent from the sons of Edward III. Since the Lancastrians had occupied the throne from 1399, the Yorkists might never have pressed a claim but for the near anarchy prevailing in the mid-15th century. After the death of Henry V (Father of Henry VI) in 1422 the country was subject to the long and factious minority of Henry VI.

Kings and elites were unaccustomed to investing financially in fortifications and standing forces for domestic conflict (hitherto a rare occurrence). Their limited personal resources, and concern not to alienate their supporters by imposing taxation and by extortion, molded the character of the wars. Lords’ kinsmen, officials, rural tenants, and clients rallied willingly for short periods; levies raised by cities, boroughs, and shires had a fixed term of service. These forces were sometimes reluctant and ill equipped: large-scale levying was hampered by its unpopularity, shortages of good recruits, and the need for rapid deployment. Both sides relied mainly on elite companies of knights and esquires—the long-term retainers of kings and nobles—and on foreign mercenary companies, such as the French and Scots who formed the backbone of Henry Tudor’s army in 1485.

Tactics were traditional: mounted troops mostly fought on foot. The use by opposing sides of English longbowmen famed for their skill reduced the effectiveness of archery. Field artillery was often deployed, and companies of hand-gunners occasionally, but neither apparently to decisive effect. The social and economic impact of war was reduced by the shortness of campaigns (counted in weeks) and by the general concern of leaders to keep or win the support of civilians: the poor discipline of the Lancastrian army victorious at St. Albans (1455) produced crucial opposition in London to its entry into the city.
As civil conflicts, the Wars of the Roses were notable in that they did not produce widespread destruction and economic recession. The participants lacked the necessary muscle for prolonged warfare and could only have developed it, or resorted to terror tactics, at the expense of alienating public opinion. Attempts to revive dynastic rebellion against Henry VII, after his victory over Edward IV’s brother Richard III at Bosworth Field (1485), were thwarted by the lack of convincing Yorkist candidates for the throne and by Henry’s effective spy service and international diplomacy. Discontent was damped down by his use of revitalized Crown revenues to buy off potential opposition and to run a magnificent court, which attracted service to the monarch and propagandized the ethic of loyalty to the Crown.

**Hundred Years’ War:**

The Hundred Years’ War is the conflict that directly preceded the Wars of the Roses and lay the seeds for the conflict between the Houses of Lancaster and York. Two factors lay at the origin of the conflict of the Hundred Years’ War. First, the status of the duchy of Guyenne (or Aquitaine)—though it belonged to the kings of England, it remained a fief of the French crown, and the kings of England wanted independent possession. Second, as the closest relatives of the last direct Capetian King (Charles IV, who had died in 1328), the kings of England from 1337 claimed the crown of France.

Theoretically, the French kings, possessing the financial and military resources of the most populous and powerful state in Western Europe, held the advantage over the smaller, more sparsely populated English kingdom. However, the expeditionary English army, well disciplined and successfully using their longbows to stop cavalry charges, proved repeatedly victorious over much larger French forces: significant victories occurred by sea at Sluys (1340), and by land at Crecy (1346) and Poitiers (1356). In 1360, King John of France, in order to save his title, was forced to accept the Treaty of Calais, which granted complete independence to the duchy of Guyenne, now considerably enlarged to include almost a third of France. However, his son Charles V, with the help of his commander in chief Bertrand du Guesclin, by 1380 had succeeded in reconquering almost all the ceded territory, notably by a series of sieges.

After a hiatus, Henry V of England renewed the war and proved victorious at Agincourt (1415), conquered Normandy (1417-1418), and then attempted to have himself crowned as the future king of France by the Treaty of Troyes (1420). But his military successes were not matched by political successes: although allied with the dukes of Burgundy, the majority of the French refused English domination.

On his deathbed, Henry V had given the Duke of Bedford responsibility for English France (as Henry VI was only an infant). The war in France continued under Bedford's generalship and several battles were won. The English won an emphatic victory at the Battle of Verneuil, (17 August 1424). At the Battle of Baugé, Clarence had rushed into battle without the support of his archers. At Verneuil the archers fought to devastating effect against the Franco-Scottish army. The effect of the battle was to virtually destroy the Dauphin's field army and to eliminate the Scots as a significant military force for the rest of the war.

Thanks to Joan of Arc, the siege of Orleans was lifted (1429). Then Paris and the Ile-de-France were liberated (1436-1441), and after the French army had been reorganized and reformed (1445-1448), Charles VII recaptured the duchy of Normandy (the Battle of Formigny, 1450), where we stand at the time of this meeting.
Lead-Up to the Wars of the Roses:

When Edward III died in 1377, he was succeeded on the throne by his grandson Richard II, who was then a child. Richard II's reign was marked by increasing disension between the King and several of the most powerful nobles. In 1398, he intervened in a dispute, involving mutual accusations of treason, between Henry Bolingbroke, the son of Edward III's third son John of Gaunt, and Thomas de Mowbray, 1st Duke of Norfolk. The two nobles were prepared to settle the matter by personal combat but Richard banished them both from the realm.

Richard II's government had become highly unpopular beyond his strongholds in Cheshire and Wales. When Bolingbroke returned from exile in 1399, initially to reclaim his rights as Duke of Lancaster, he took advantage of the support of most of the nobles to depose Richard and was crowned King Henry IV. The childless Richard II had nominated Edmund Mortimer, 5th Earl of March as his successor, but there was little support at the time for the counter-claim of the young Mortimer. As Henry's initial popularity waned, the Mortimer family's claim to the throne was a pretext for the major rebellion of Owain Glyndŵr in Wales, and other, less successful, revolts in Cheshire and Northumberland.

Henry IV's son and successor, Henry V, inherited a temporarily pacified nation, and his military success against France in the Hundred Years' War bolstered his popularity, enabling him to strengthen the Lancastrian hold on the throne. Nevertheless, one notable conspiracy against Henry took place during his nine-year reign: the Southampton Plot, led by Richard, Earl of Cambridge, a son of Edmund of Langley, the fourth son of Edward III. Cambridge was executed in 1415, for treason, at the start of the campaign that led to the Battle of Agincourt. Cambridge's wife, Anne Mortimer, who had died in 1411, was the daughter of Roger Mortimer and thus a descendant of Lionel of Antwerp, Edward III's second son. Her brother Edmund, Earl of March, who had loyally supported Henry, died childless in 1425 and the title and extensive estates of the Earldom of March and the Mortimer claim to the throne thus passed to Anne's descendants.

Richard, the son of Cambridge and Anne Mortimer, was four years old at the time of his father's execution. Although Cambridge was attainted, Henry later allowed Richard to inherit the title and lands of Cambridge's elder brother Edward, Duke of York, who had died fighting alongside Henry at Agincourt and had no issue. Henry, who had three younger brothers and was himself in his prime and recently married, had no doubt that the Lancastrian right to the crown was secure. Henry's premature death led to his only son coming to the throne as an infant and the country being ruled by regents. Henry V's younger brothers produced no surviving legitimate issue, leaving only distant cousins (the Beauforts) as alternative Lancaster heirs. Richard of York's claim to the throne thus became more significant, placing him in a position to threaten the weak King Henry VI. The revenue from the York and March estates also made him the wealthiest magnate in the land.

Henry V died unexpectedly in 1422 and his son, King Henry VI of England, ascended the throne as an infant only nine months old. From his childhood, he was surrounded by quarrelsome counselors and advisors. Henry's younger surviving paternal uncle, Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, sought to be named Protector and deliberately courted the popularity of the common people for his own ends, but was opposed by Cardinal Beaufort. On several occasions, Beaufort called on John, Duke of Bedford, Humphrey's older brother, to return from his post as Regent in France, either to mediate or to defend him against Humphrey's accusations of treason. Some time after Bedford died in 1435, Cardinal Beaufort withdrew from public affairs, partly due to old age and partly because William de la Pole, 1st Duke of Suffolk, rose to become the dominant personality at court. Suffolk was widely held to be enriching himself through his influence on Henry, and was blamed for mismanaging the government and poorly executing the continuing Hundred Years' War with France. Under Henry VI, all the land in France won by Henry V and even the provinces of Guienne and Gascony, which had been held since the reign of Henry II three centuries previously, were lost.
Suffolk eventually succeeded in having Humphrey of Gloucester arrested for treason. Humphrey died while awaiting trial in prison at Bury St Edmunds in 1447. Some authorities date the start of the War of the Roses from the death of Humphrey. However, with severe reverses in France, Suffolk was stripped of office and was murdered on his way to exile. Edmund Beaufort, 2nd Duke of Somerset, succeeded him as leader of the party seeking peace with France. The Duke of York, who had succeeded Bedford as Lieutenant in France, meanwhile represented those who wished to prosecute the war more vigorously, and criticised the court, and Somerset in particular, for starving him of funds and men during his campaigns in France. In all these quarrels, Henry VI had taken little part. He was seen as a weak, ineffectual king. In addition, he displayed several symptoms of mental illness that he may have inherited from his maternal grandfather, Charles VI of France. By 1450 many considered Henry incapable of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of a king.

Map showing English possessions in France, 1415:
Lancaster:

The House of Lancaster was a cadet branch of the house of Plantagenet. In the 15th century it provided three kings of England—Henry IV, Henry V, and Henry VI—and, defeated by the house of York, passed on its claims to the Tudor dynasty.

The family name first appeared in 1267, when the title of earl of Lancaster was granted to Edmund “Crouchback” (1245–96), the youngest son of Henry III. Two of Edmund’s sons by his second wife, Blanche of Artois, succeeded to the title: Thomas, earl of Lancaster (died 1322), and Henry, earl of Lancaster (died 1345). Henry’s son, Henry, 1st duke of Lancaster (died 1361), was survived only by two coheiresses. The elder daughter—Maud, married to William, duke of Bavaria—died without issue a year after her father. The Lancastrian inheritance thus fell to the younger daughter, Blanche, and to her husband, John of Gaunt (died 1399), third surviving son of Edward III. After Gaunt’s death his son Henry of Lancaster deposed Richard II and became king himself, as Henry IV. On his accession the duchy of Lancaster was merged in the crown, and the house of Lancaster, in the persons of Henry IV, Henry V, and Henry VI, ruled England for more than 60 years.

York:

The House of York is the younger branch of the house of Plantagenet of England. In the 15th century, having overthrown the house of Lancaster, it provided three kings of England—Edward IV, Edward V, and Richard III—and, in turn defeated, passed on its claims to the Tudor dynasty.

The house was founded by King Edward III’s fifth son, Edmund of Langley (1341–1402), 1st Duke of York, but Edmund and his own son, Edward, 2nd Duke of York, had for the most part undistinguished careers. Edward, dying childless, passed on the dukedom to his nephew Richard (whose mother was a descendant of Edward III’s second surviving son, Lionel, Duke of Clarence). Richard, 3rd Duke of York (1411–60), was the initial Yorkist claimant to the crown, in opposition to the Lancastrian Henry VI. It may be said that his claim, when it was advanced, was rightly barred by prescription, the house of Lancaster having then occupied the throne for three generations, and that it was really owing to the misgovernment of Queen Margaret of Anjou and her favourites that it was advanced at all. Yet it was founded upon strict principles of lineal descent, for the 3rd Duke of York was descended from Lionel, Duke of Clarence, the second surviving son of Edward III, whereas the house of Lancaster came of John of Gaunt, a younger brother of Lionel. One thing that might possibly have been considered an element of weakness in Richard’s claim was that it was derived through females—an objection actually brought against it by Chief Justice John Fortescue (probably a reflection of the increasingly common practice among the English nobility of passing on their estates to a male heir). But apart from strict legality, Richard’s claim was probably supported in the popular view by the fact that he was descended from Edward III through his father no less than through his mother.

The Church and the Wars of the Roses

Because of a lack of political talent among its leaders, the English Church took little part in the Wars of the Roses, and few bishops were strong or consistent advocates for either the house of Lancaster or the House of York. The various changes in dynasty brought the church neither great harm nor great benefit. Also, the brief and intermittent nature of civil war campaigns caused the church to suffer little material damage during the conflict.

Henry VI made bishops of the pious and scholarly men who served as his confessors and spiritual advisors. In the fact of conflict, Henry would find himself lacking in practical, politically experienced bishops who had formed the core of previous royal administration.
Characters

House of Lancaster:

1. King Henry VI (1421 - 1471)
Born at Windsor in December 1421, the only child of Henry V (r. 1413-1422) and Catherine of Valois (d. 1437), Henry was less than a year old when he succeeded his father as King of England and his maternal grandfather, Charles VI as king of France. Crowned at Westminster in 1429 and at Paris in 1431, Henry was declared of full age in 1437. He was eager to exercise his office and to have his will in matters that interested him, such as the royal foundations of Eton College and King’s College, Cambridge, which the king planned in minute detail and diverted funds that were urgently needed elsewhere. He had little understanding of the workings of government, and was easily persuaded by self-interested courtiers to grant titles, lands, offices, pardons, and monetary rewards without any thought to the merits or the consequences of the request. He had no interest in leading armies and in the 1440’s allowed England’s military position to deteriorate. He actively has been pursuing a peace policy that has led to a truce in 1445 with Charles VII and to his marriage with Charles’ kinswoman, Margaret of Anjou.

2. Queen Margaret of Anjou (1430 - 1482)
Queen Margaret of Anjou, wife of Henry VI, is set to be the effective leader of the House of Lancaster as of 1449. She is the daughter of Rene, duke of Anjou, a French nobleman with unrealized claims to various European Crowns. Margaret was betrothed to Henry VI in 1444. Her marriage sealed an Anglo-French truce negotiated with her uncle, Charles VII, by Henry’s ambassador, William de la Pole, earl of Suffolk. Margaret was crowned in Westminster Abbey on May 30, 1445. She is intelligent and energetic, and soon associated herself with Suffolk and the court faction, and held influence with Henry in the late 1440’s. She also became a strong advocate for the peace policy that made her queen, and helped ensure the implementation of Henry’s promise to surrender the county of Main to the French in 1448.

3. Edmund Beaufort, 1st Duke of Somerset (1406 - 1455)
Through his quarrel with Richard Plantagenet, duke of York, Edmund Beaufort, second duke of Somerset, helped initiate the political conflicts that eventually escalated into the Wars of the Roses. He was a younger son of John Beaufort, earl of Somerset. As a branch of the house of Lancaster, the Beaufort family held claim to the Crown that could possibly rival the claim of the house of York. Beaufort succeeded his elder brother John as earl of Somerset in 1444 and as duke of Somerset in 1448. He served in France from the 1420’s, recapturing Harfleur in 1440 and relieving Calais in 1442. In 1446, he succeeded York as lieutenant of France, but his failure to hold Normandy against French assaults, though not entirely his fault, earned him great unpopularity.

4. Henry Beaufort, 2nd Duke of Somerset (1436 - 1464)
The son and heir to Edmund Beaufort, second duke of Somerset, Henry Beaufort, third duke of Somerset, was one of the chief military leaders of the Lancastrian cause during the first phase of the Wars of the Roses. Both dynastic and personal considerations made the new duke a staunch supporter of Henry VI – the Beaufort family was a branch of the House of Lancaster, after all. He would go on to fight staunchly at his father’s side, and would eventually be driven by a desire to avenge his father’s death. Somerset’s martial exploits won him international renown as a brave, fierce, and relentless soldier and leader. But the depth of his vendetta against the Yorkists would lead to breaches of oaths and promises. He eventually gained a reputation for untrustworthiness, though he never wavered from his Lancastrian alliances.
5. **Henry Percy, 2nd Earl of Northumberland (1393 - 1455)**

Henry Percy, 2nd Earl of Northumberland (3 February 1393 – 22 May 1455) was an English nobleman and military commander in the lead up to the Wars of the Roses. He was the son of Henry "Hotspur" Percy, and the grandson of Henry Percy, 1st Earl of Northumberland. His father and grandfather were killed in different rebellions against Henry IV in 1403 and 1408 respectively, and the young Henry spent his minority in exile in Scotland. Only after the death of Henry IV in 1413 was he reconciled with the Crown, and in 1416 he was created Earl of Northumberland. In the following years, Northumberland occasionally served with the king in France, but his main occupation was the protection of the border to Scotland. When Henry V died in 1422, Northumberland was appointed member of the council appointed to govern during the minority of Henry VI. He might have been involved in an embassy to the Council of Siena in 1423, but still his main area of responsibility lay in the border region. In the council, he seems to have belonged to the circle around Bishop Henry Beaufort, and he followed Beaufort – now cardinal – to peace negotiations at Berwick in 1429. As Warden of the East March, he was constantly occupied with peace negotiations and defence of northern England, but his efforts were constantly frustrated, and in 1434 he resigned his commission. At the same time, a feud with the Neville family was developing, particularly with Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury. Initially, his relations with the Nevilles were friendly. He was connected to the Neville earls of Westmorland through his marriage with Eleanor Neville, and in 1426 he married his sister Elizabeth to the young Ralph Neville, 2nd Earl of Westmorland. In the early 1450’s, the relationship between the Percy family and Salisbury - who belonged to a cadet branch of the Westmorland Neville family - started to deteriorate.

6. **Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke (1431 - 1495)**

Jasper Tudor was from the noble Tudor family of Penmynydd in North Wales, the half brother of King Henry VI via his mother, Queen Catherine of Valois (the widow of Henry V), and Owen Tudor, her second husband. He was named Earl of Pembroke by Henry in 1452. After his mother’s death, Jasper, Edmund, and their younger sister were taken into the care of Katherine de la Pole, sister of William de la Pole, 1st Duke of Suffolk, and a favorite of King Henry VI. In 1442, their half brother the King began to take an interest in their upbringing. Sometime after March 1442, Jasper and his brother were brought to live at court. Henry arranged for the best priest to educate them intellectually and morally. The brothers also received military training, when they grew up and were given military positions. Jasper was recognized as Henry VI’s uterine brother when he was created the Earl of Pembroke.

7. **Edmund Tudor, 1st Earl of Richmond (1430 - 1456)**

Edmund, also known as Edmund Hadham, was the father of King Henry VII of England and a member of the Tudor family of Penmynydd, North Wales. He was the first son of Owen Tudor and Catherine de Valois (widow of King Henry V of England and the mother of Henry VI). After his mother’s death, Jasper, Edmund, and their younger sister were taken into the care of Katherine de la Pole, sister of William de la Pole, 1st Duke of Suffolk, and a favorite of King Henry VI. In 1442, their half brother the King began to take an interest in their upbringing. Sometime after March 1442, Edmund and his brother were brought to live at court. He was knighted on December 15, 1449, summoned to parliament as Earl of Richmond on January 30, 1452, and created Earl of Richmond on March 6. In the parliament of 1453 Edmund was formally declared legitimate. Henry often made him large grants of money and land. He married Lady Margaret Beaufort, the twelve-year-old daughter of the Duke of Somerset in 1455 and had one son with her, Henry Tudor, born in 1455.
8. Thomas Courtenay, 5th Earl of Devon (1414 - 1458)
Thomas Courtenay, 5th Earl of Devon, was an English nobleman who was involved in the Wars of the Roses. His seat was Colcombe Castle, near Colyton, Devon, and later the principal historic family seat of Tiverton Castle after his mother’s death. Much of his life was spent in armed territorial struggle against his near-neighbor in Devon Sir William Bonville of Shute, Devon, at a time when central control over the provinces was weak. He was married off as an infant to Margaret Beaufort, granddaughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and started his career as an adherent to the Lancastrian Beaufort party.

9. John Talbot, 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury (1417 - 1460)
John Talbot, 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury, 2nd Earl of Waterford, 8th Baron Talbot, (c. 1417 – 10 July 1460) was an English nobleman and soldier. He was the son of John Talbot, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury and Maud Nevill, the 6th Baroness Furnivall. John Talbot also held the subsidiary titles of 11th Baron Strange of Blackmere and 7th Baron Furnivall. He was knighted in 1426 at Leicester alongside King Henry VI. During his father's lifetime, he served as Lord Chancellor of Ireland. He was a Lancastrian, and served as Lord High Treasurer from 1456 to 1458, besides being created a Knight of the Garter in 1457. He married Elizabeth Butler, a daughter of James Butler, 4th Earl of Ormonde and Joan de Beauchamp. They had seven children.

10. John Clifford, 9th Baron de Clifford (1435 - 1461)
John Clifford was the 9th Baron de Clifford as well as the 9th feudal baron of Skipton and a Lancastrian military leader during the Wars of the Roses. He was one of the strongest supporters of Queen Margaret of Anjou, consort of King Henry VI. He was born in 1435 to Thomas Clifford, 8th Baron Clifford and Joan Dacre, and had three younger brothers and five sisters. At the age of twenty, he inherited the barony of Clifford, the family seat at Skipton Castle and the hereditary office of High Sheriff of Westmorland. He was at the forefront of the Lancastrian cause and fought in many battles on behalf of the Lancasters. He married Margaret Bromflete and had two sons and a daughter.

11. Ralph Percy (-1464)
Sir Percy, knight, Governor of Bamburgh Castle and notably the son of Henry Percy, 2nd Earl of Northumberland was a known supporter of the Lancastrians in the Wars. During 1462 and 1463, the Lancastrians were aggressive in their attempts to destabilize the kingdom that was ruled by their Yorkist enemy, Edward IV. However, when the Earl of Warwick retaliated in the North, Sir Percy was forced to surrender Bamburgh Castle so that he could be pardoned and freed without harm.

12. Henry Percy, 3rd Earl of Northumberland (1421-1461)
3rd Earl of Northumberland Henry Percy was an English magnate who presided over one of the greatest 15th century landholdings, which was located in Northern England. The son of Henry Percy, 2nd Earl of Northumberland, the 3rd Earl has vowed to carry on his father’s legacy should anything happen to him throughout these bloody conflicts. Percy has sworn to uphold the Lancastrian dynasty, promising to lead massive bodies of men to confrontations and numerous battles under the Lancastrian name. As a loyal Lancastrian, he receives handsome upkeeps from his estates and earns more the more militarily successful he is.
13. James Tuchet, 5th Baron Audley, 2nd Baron Tuchet (1398–1459)
5th Baron of Audley and 2nd Baron of Tuchet, James Tuchet was an English peer and a veteran of the Hundred Years’ War. Audley is a fierce commander of loyal Lancastrian forces and a major supporter of the queen. His second marriage was to Eleanor de Holland, the illegitimate daughter of Edmund Holland, 4th Earl of Kent by Constance of York. His son, Sir Humphrey Tuchet, also supports the House of Lancaster. Audley’s daughter, Constance Tuchet, married Sir Robert Whitney in 1464, who was an active participant in the War of the Roses.

14. Thomas Clifford, 8th Baron de Clifford (1414 – 1455)
8th Baron de Clifford and 8th Lord of Skipton, Thomas Clifford was a veteran of the Hundred Years’ War, ambassador to King James III of Scotland (1450-1451), and first cousin to Henry Percy. In the event something should happen to him, his son, John Clifford, has agreed to succeed him. John was killed fighting for the Lancasters during the Battle of Towton (1461). His daughter, Elizabeth Clifford, married Sir William Plumpton. Another of his daughters, Maud Clifford, married Sir John Harrington. Both of his sons in law were involved in the Wars of the Roses as well.

House of York

1. Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York (Sep 1411- Dec 1460)
Richard, duke of York was a leading English magnate, a great-grandson of King Edward III through his father, and a great-great-great-grandson of the same king through his mother. He inherited vast estates and served in various offices of state in Ireland, France, and England. His conflicts with Henry's wife, Margaret of Anjou, and other members of Henry's court, as well as his competing claim on the throne, were a leading factor in the political upheaval of mid-fifteenth-century England, and a major cause of the Wars of the Roses. He was appointed lieutenant of France in 1440. Taking on the role previously occupied by John, Duke of Bedford, the brother of Henry V. In 1443, John Beaufort, duke of Somerset, was sent to France to relieve Gascony, leading to much ill feeling on York’s part, who was denied access to resources required to maintain the borders of Normandy. A peace was negotiated with the French and York returned to England for a second time in 1445 and firmly attached himself to the pro war party headed by the king’s uncle, Humphrey, duke of Gloucester in opposition to the policies of Cardinal henry Beaufort. The lieutenancy of France was given to Somerset’s younger brother and successor, Edmund Beaufort, which exacerbated Richard’s resentment of the Beaufort family. The death of Humphrey duke of Gloucester in 1447, made Richard of York the first Prince of the Blood. In 1448 he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, a convenient means of keeping him out of the country.

1. Edward Plantagenet, 4th Duke of York (1442 - 1483)
Edward Plantagenet was born at Rouen, Normandy, in April 1442, the second surviving child and eldest son of Richard, 3rd Duke of York and Cecily, Duchess of York. Edward probably assumed his father’s title of earl of March late in 1445, when negotiations were under way for his marriage to a daughter of Charles VII of France. He eventually married Elizabeth Woodville, and had ten children by her, seven of whom survived him. An extremely capable and daring military commander, Edward crushed the House of Lancaster in a series of spectacular military victories; he was never defeated on the field of battle. Despite his occasional political setbacks, Edward was a popular and able leader. He sometimes lacked foresight and was at times cursed by bad judgment, but possessed an uncanny understanding of his most useful subjects, and the vast majority of those who served him remained unwaveringly loyal until his death.
2. Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury (1400 - 1460)
Richard Neville born in 1400 at Raby castle in County Durham was the third son of Ralph de Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland and Joan Beaufort (his second wife). Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury’s mother’s distinction as royalty also helped elevate the family. Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury married Alice Montacute, daughter and heiress of Thomas Montacute, the Earl of Salisbury. Three of Richard’s sisters married Dukes including Cecily who married Richard Duke of York. After the death of Earl Thomas, Richard Neville and Alice became the Earl and Countess of Salisbury. After inheriting lands initially ascribed to Ralph’s grandson, Richard entered into a dispute with the supposed heir. This Neville-Neville dispute was later to become absorbed into the destructive Percy-Neville feud. Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury turned to the cause of Richard, Duke of York who made lord chancellor in 1455.

3. Elizabeth Plantagenet, Duchess of Suffolk (1440 - 1503)
Elizabeth of York, Duchess of Suffolk was the sixth child and third daughter of Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York and Cecily Neville. She was a younger sister of Anne of York, Duchess of Exeter, Edward IV of England and Edmund, Earl of Rutland. Sometime before February 1458, she is married to John de la Pole, eldest son of William de la Pole, 1st Duke of Suffolk. John and Elizabeth would go on to have eleven known children.

4. John de la Pole, 2nd Duke of Suffolk (1442 - 1491)
John de la Pole was known as the “Trimming Duke” and was the son of William de la Pole, 1st Duke of Suffolk, and Alice Chaucer, daughter of Thomas Chaucer, and a great-grandson of the poet Geoffrey Chaucer. He was married to the six-year old Margaret Beaufort when he was only ten years old. This marriage was later annulled in February 1453. Richard, duke of York had been a bitter enemy of John’s father (who was executed in 1450), but John supported the House of York in the Wars of the Roses. John eventually married Elizabeth, the second surviving daughter of Richard of York and Cecily Neville. John and Elizabeth would go on to have eleven known children. The dukedom of Suffolk had been forfeited when John’s father was executed, but the title was restored by Edward IV in 1463. He would be Constable of Wallingford Castle, and hold the Honour of Wallingford. A flaky ally of the House of York, he fought under the Yorkist army until swearing allegiance to Richard III after the death of Edward IV.

5. Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick (1428 - 1471)
Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick also known as Warwick the kingmaker, was the son of Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury. Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick was the wealthiest and most powerful English peer of his age, with political connections that went beyond the country’s borders. One of the leaders in the Wars of the Roses, originally on the Yorkist side but later switching to the Lancastrian side. Because of a territorial dispute with the Duke of Somerset he collaborated with Richard, Duke of York, in opposing the king. This gained him a strategic post as Captain of Calais. He later changed sides as a Lancastrian.

6. William Neville, 1st Earl of Kent (1405-)
William Neville, 1st Earl of Kent was born the second son of Ralph Neville 1st earl of Westmorland. William was a great-grandson of Edward III, however, the terms of the legitimisation of the Beaufort family specifically excluded them and their descendants from succession. Marrying the Fauconberg heiress William Neville, 1st Earl of Kent, took the title of Lord Fauconberg. After loyalty serving the king in France and being ransomed from his French Captors, William Neville, 1st Earl of Kent he was appointed Constable of Windsor Castle by the Duke of York and switched to the Yorkish side.
7. Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury (1404 - 1486)
Thomas Bourchier, the archbishop of Canterbury, had been appointed during the First Protectorate of Richard Plantagenet, duke of York, and supported the Yorkists in 1460 after having accommodated both sides during the 1450’s. He was the younger son of William Bourchier, 1st Count of Eu by his wife Anne of Gloucester, a daughter of Thomas of Woodstock, youngest son of King Edward III. He was educated at the University of Oxford, after which he entered the church and obtained rapid promotion. After holding some minor appointments he was consecrated Bishop of Worcester in 1434 and Chancellor of the University of Oxford in the same year. In 1443 he was appointed Bishop of Ely and in 1454 he was made Archbishop of Canterbury, and became Lord Chancellor of England in March 1455. His short term as chancellor coincided with the start of the Wars of the Roses, and at first he was not a strong partisan, although he lost his position as chancellor when Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York, was deprived of power in October 1456. In 1458 he helped to reconcile the contending parties, but when the war was renewed in 1459 he had become a decided Yorkist.

8. William Herbert, 1st Earl of Pembroke (1423 - 1469)
William Herbert, known as “Black William”, was the son of William ap Thomas, founder of Raglan Castle, and Gwladys ferch Dafydd Gam, and grandson of Dafydd Gam, an adherent of King Henry V of England. His father had been an ally of Richard of York, and Herbert supported the Yorkist cause in the Wars of the Roses. In 1461 Herbert was rewarded by King Edward IV with the title Baron Herbert of Raglan and was invested as a Knight of the Garter. He married Anne devereux, daughter of Walter Devereux, chancellor of Ireland and Elizabeth Merbury, and had at least ten children with her.

9. Sir William Oldhall (1390-1460)
Sir William Oldhall was an English soldier and Yorkist supporter who served as Speaker of the House of Commons of England between 1450-1451. He was the son and heir of Sir Edmund Oldhall and Alice, daughter of Geoffrey de Fransham. He won his spurs as a soldier at the battle of Verneuil on 17 August 1424, when he was made seneschal of Normandy. In the subsequent invasion of Maine and Anjou he further distinguished himself, and was appointed constable of Montsoreau and governor of St. Laurent des Mortiers. In 1440 he was chamberlain to Richard of York, 3rd Duke of York, and a member of his council. In the struggle for the retention of Normandy he commanded the castle of La Ferte Bernard, which fell into the hands of the French in 1449. Oldhall was with the Duke of York in Wales in September 1450, was returned to parliament for Hertfordshire in October of the same year, and in November was chosen Speaker of the House of Commons. He was married to Margaret, daughter of William Willoughby, 5th baron Willoughby de Eresby. With her he had only one daughter, Mary.

10. Cecily Neville (Wife of Richard Plantagenet, 3rd duke of York)
(3 May 1415 – 31 May 1495) was an English noblewoman, the wife of Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York, and the mother of two Kings of England, Edward IV and Richard III. Her husband, the Duke of York, was the leading contender for the throne of England from the House of York during the period of the War of the Roses until his death in 1460. The Duchess of York thus stands to become the Queen consort of England if her husband ascends to the throne.
11. Anne Neville (Wife of Richard Plantagenet, 4th duke of York)
1456-1485. Anne Neville is the daughter of Richard Neville, earl of Warwick “The Kingmaker”. Her father first betrothed her as a girl to Edward, Prince of Wales, the son of Henry VI (Lancaster). The marriage was meant to seal an alliance with the House of Lancaster and continued the civil war between the two houses of Lancaster and York. After Edward died, she married Richard Plantagenet in 1472, her long-lost first love from her youth. In order to get married, Richard had to negotiate extensively with his brother George and give up a good amount of estates. Anne and Richard were fully committed to each other throughout their whole lives.

12. John Howard, 1st duke of Norfolk (1425-1485)
John Howard was related to the Mowbrays. He was a trusted confidant of King Richard III (York). He was an Earl Marshal, a prestigious rank traditionally charged with protecting the monarch, managing horses, ceremonies, and other key royal tasks. His wife is from the Mowbray family and he previously served as the treasurer for the royal household.

John Mowbray is the son of Katherine Neville and John Mowbray, 2nd duke of Norfolk. He succeeded his father as Earl Marshal in 1432. He is a Yorkist, but his friends do not know him for his unwavering loyalty. He served with limited military success during the Hundred Years’ War against France, with what some called an inconsistent military track record. His mother was descendant from the Neville family.