

Adelaide Branch Richard III Society



Don't forget this meeting **Saturday 6th July**, the actual Coronation date, is our **Coronation lunch**. We are not insisting on medieval this time but if you want to, it's your decision. Bring savoury and/or sweet to share. Sue has bread, serviettes, tablecloths, candles for candle ceremony covered and is also bringing wine, pie and cheesecake. Early start as it's lunch so **12.30pm**. \$5 + Usual mantelpiece raffle,

Extra raffle for convention 2021 fundraising. \$2 a ticket or 3 for \$5. Prizes- choice of chocolates, books and wine

Meetings

August- Meredith's talk, **September-** Richard 3 at War, **October** AGM, plus **If I could change History** -think about to share - if you could remove one person or change one event, who or what would it be and why? **November-** Judith's talk on clothing, **December-** Christmas lunch,

Our **May meeting** was a select band of 7 with a number of apologies. Rilla welcomed everyone and we read through last month's minutes. In Business arising Rilla talked about our meeting with Stam the event manager at Rydges on Monday 6th May. By dealing directly with her we were able to explain that paying a large deposit was out of the question and the Hotel manager was happy to accept a lesser amount. **This deposit has now been paid and the contract signed. So we are booked for 21st and 22nd August 2021 for the next Australasian convention.** Rilla and her husband had had dinner and stayed the night at Rydges and had an enjoyable time. No-one else had come up with a better venue after following up ideas from the last meeting.

As Kevin was working at the museum there was no treasurer's report. Correspondence was Rydges paperwork, letter from Rob Smith re voting, Dickon Independent and NSW branch's Affinity. In General business the latest addition to the library is Blackadder Series 1 DVD. National Pen – tote bag- keep in mind for 2021 convention.

Rilla then gave her talk on Anne Neville.

Anne Neville Queen to Richard 111 Michael Hicks

Chapter 1 Why Study Anne Neville?

The chapter starts with a quote from Shakespeare's Richard 111 "Was ever woman in this humour wooed?"

"Was ever woman in this humour won?"

Act 1 Scene 2

As we know the woman was Anne Neville and the wooer, Richard Duke of Gloucester. Shakespeare made his lady Anne into one of the best known figures in history, but seldom remembered by name. Sir Laurence Olivier (I just had to include this bit) and Claire Bloom brought these two historical figures to millions through stage and film. Of course we know that the wooing scene is Shakespeare's invention.

Shakespeare's version of Richard's usurping the throne was in line with other writers of the time. He believed (according to Hicks) that Richard had seized the throne and murdered the princes. The masterful writing of Shakespeare made the scenario of Anne still marrying Richard even knowing all the dastardly deeds done by him-believable. Shakespeare did capture the family dynamics even though he was incorrect in details and even depicting events that can never have occurred.

As we know Shakespeare created in his Richard one of the theatres greatest villains and one of the worst kings. He depicts Lady Anne as another of Richard's victims because while she knows all the evil things he has done she still marries him. Apparently seduced by his charm and way with words. However she comes to regret the union-thus the victim of Richard.

Shakespeare offers no details of Anne's life apart from the small amount of time with Richard. He was as much in the dark about her life as we are.

Anne Neville (1456-1485) was the wife of one of the most short-lived of English medieval kings. She herself only reigned for twenty one months. Her son, only a child, predeceased her. Her husband was to lose his throne after being defeated and disgraced. Believed to have usurped the throne, murdered his nephews and committed other crimes he has been considered to be one of the most wicked of medieval kings.

We have no evidence to tell us whether Anne was his victim or his instrument. There is actually very little known about Anne's life. And yet she was present in the great events-The Wars of the Roses and lived her whole life amongst them.

As far as we know Anne had no portrait painted. There are stylized images of Anne Neville but they are not realistic so don't tell us anything about her physical appearance. Apparently she was like her niece Elizabeth of York in build and complexion.

Hicks therefore draws the conclusion that Anne could be described as an English rose-slim, blonde and probably unremarkable.

There is no monument to Anne. She has a tomb in Westminster Abbey marked only by a modern brass plaque. As Richard died only months after Anne's death there was no-one to care much about her memory.

Because of who Anne was married to and the times in which she lived her life is worth being studied. Historians and ordinary people should have the opportunity to know about her. This is the justification Hicks gives for writing this book.

Because Anne was a woman historians tended to believe they had no history worth writing about—particularly medieval women.

Anne was a noble lady, spinster, Princess of Wales, widow, Duchess of Gloucester and finally Queen. Being a queen especially of Richard III, made her life worthy of study—otherwise probably nothing would be recorded of her short life.

Shakespeare's version of Richard no longer prevails and most people are aware he wrote a play not a history. As Ricardians we get a mention—Hicks writes that we let no opportunity pass to correct critical comments about Richard's character. Writers such as Josephine Tey and Paul Murray Kendall have presented Richard in a better light. If Richard wasn't a bad king then perhaps he wasn't a bad husband and he made Anne happy muses Hicks.

In the time Anne lived marriage was the only state considered for a woman—apart from a nunnery. An appropriate husband would have been looked for from early childhood. Arranged marriages (with many ulterior motives) were the norm. People of Anne's station didn't marry to please themselves.

Her first marriage was the work of her parents and when Edward of Lancaster died, another marriage was the only palatable option. Anne's union with

Richard was acceptable and was approved by the King.

Chapter 2 Who was Anne Neville?

Anne Neville was the younger of two daughters. She was co-heiress of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick and Salisbury. Her mother was Anne Beauchamp. She was born into very high nobility and the top rank of English society. Her pedigree to some extent shaped who she was to become.

As an aside I was a little taken aback by this statement “It was also this power-base that Anne Neville was to transfer to her second husband Richard Duke of Gloucester in the 1470's. Gloucester used it to make himself dominant in the North and to usurp the throne in 1483.” P35 I was tempted to not continue but valiantly stuck to the task.

Anne Neville was born in Warwick which was the principal seat of the earls of Warwick. The castle still survives and was still inhabited by its lord until quite recently.

In this chapter there is a lot of information about the Warwick and Beauchamp lineage but I have not gone into it here. Needless to say Anne's lineage was impeccable.

A lot is written about the failure of Richard, Earl of Warwick and his wife Anne to produce children. There is no record of miscarriages and it was after thirteen years of marriage that the first daughter Isabel was born. Anne's mother was thirty when she had Anne. Difficulty in conceiving appears to be a problem for both mother and daughter. There were four years between Isabel and Anne's birth.

Anne Neville was christened on 11th of June 1456 in St Mary's Warwick College. There is no knowledge of who Anne's godparents were.

When Warwick became Captain of Calais he took his family with him - this was in May 1457. There is no evidence to support the assumption that the two girls were there but because the Warwicks were going to be in Calais for a number of years it is likely. Anne was perhaps under one and the family were in Calais for three years. When the earl travelled it is presumed his wife and daughters remained in Calais.

In 1460 the Warwick family returned in triumph to London after the successful invasion of the Yorkist earls. Anne was in her 5th year.

Only assumptions can be made about Anne's life in Calais - she may have learnt French and she may have learnt Flemish. There is nothing to confirm what impact her time in Calais was to have on her later life.

When the family returned to England Warwick was a very influential man. Anne, even as a young child may have been aware of this power. But we have no way of knowing about the personal relationship Anne had with her father.

As children both girls and boys were taught to read and write in English. They were also taught religious observances. They learned about their family - its genealogy, its traditions etc. We also assume they were taught to ride. When the children were older the education of boys and girls separated. Boys went on to a higher academic standard, learnt martial arts that prepared them for future warriors. Girls of course were being prepared for their role as mothers, managers of households and workers of polite society.

Great trouble was gone into to see that the girls were taught to be unsullied, humble and obedient to men. We therefore assume that Anne was kept chaste for her marriage at fourteen.

The Warwick girls would only have been seen in society for very important occasions - for example at the reburial of their grandfather Richard Earl of Salisbury and their uncle Thomas Neville who were slain at Wakefield in 1460.

When Anne was nine, she and her sister Isabel were present at the enthronement of their uncle George Neville as Archbishop of York. At their table was a thirteen year old, Prince Richard Duke of Gloucester.

Anne left the family home at fourteen when she married and may not have

returned to Warwick until she was Queen. Therefore John Rows can only record platitudes—her manner was decorous and amiable, her conduct commendable and virtuous and she was “full gracious.” The Great Chronicle also gives her reputation as gracious. Full praise indeed!

Chapter 3 Her Father's Daughter 1469-71

Isabel Neville after some difficulties such as King Edward IV vetoing their marriage—married George Duke of Clarence in Calais on Tuesday 12th of July 1469. Anne though not specifically mentioned as being a guest, was undoubtedly there. Isabel's marriage would have moved up the marriage of Anne on her parent's agenda.

Warwick made a move against Edward IV, but it all went wrong. Warwick's attempt to have George declared King and hence his daughter Queen came to nothing.

However this failure didn't deter Warwick and he planned to topple Edward. He and Clarence were not strong enough to resist Edward in battle and they fled to France. Warwick's daughters went with him.

In July 1470 Anne was with her family at Valognes. Because Warwick and Clarence were now traitors, they feared execution if they returned to England. Anne's life was now threatened and her future bleak.

Warwick decided to throw his hand in with the Lancastrian cause and so his daughter Anne was betrothed to Edward of Lancaster, son of King Henry and Queen Margaret. The alliance was agreed to on the 29th of June 1470. Anne was only fourteen years old when she and Edward were formally betrothed on the 25th of July 1470. The marriage itself was put on hold because a special dispensation had to be given by the Pope as the pair were related by blood in the 4th degree. There was a lot of information on this but too much for my tiny brain to process so I left it out. Anne was given into the care of Queen Margaret. (Poor girl.)

After much toing and froing the pair were finally married on Thursday the 13th of December 1470. (Actually this is my wedding anniversary. Naturally long after 1470!!!) They were married at Amboise.

Anne was now a Princess and destined to be Queen of both England and France. But this important moment passed into history almost wholly unrecorded.

While the machinations of Anne's father were taking place in England Anne was still in France. They didn't return to England until April 1471. Anne's father had been killed at The Battle of Barnet so things were not as planned. Her mother entered a nunnery, fearing the wrath of Edward IV. Anne was thus deprived at the age of fourteen of both her mother and her father.

Nothing is recorded of Anne's feelings to these losses. This seems to be a common theme-unrecorded.

In the battle of Tewkesbury on the 4th of May 1471, Anne lost her husband of six months. Some accounts say he was killed in battle, others say he survived and was killed later at Edward's request.

There is nothing to say where Anne was staying during the battle and the aftermath that was Tewkesbury.

Anne was pardoned by Edward IV along with other women Queen Margaret being one of them.

Chapter 4 Between Princes 1471-5

Anne was a widow after only six months of marriage. Her entitlements as dowager Princess of Wales had not been settled on her. Edward IV had rejected all things Lancastrian and Anne's husband had been Lancastrian. The belief is that Anne was put in Clarence's care and was taken to Warwick.

There is no record of where Anne actually was for the eight months after Tewkesbury. So the most likely scenario is that Clarence took Anne into Isabel's household. They wouldn't be too keen on Anne marrying again because they would be afraid a husband would want Anne to assert her rights and recover her half-share of the Warwick fortune.

When Richard began to show an interest in Anne, Clarence and Isabel kept her concealed from other prospective husbands. The tale of her being concealed as a kitchen maid-as claimed by Crowland is unlikely. She would have had no skills in that area. But the concealment story is probably authentic.

There is no evidence to show what the Clarence's intentions were for Anne. If they offered her the alternative of taking the veil, she obviously declined. Anne apparently saw Clarence's brother Richard as her saviour, her rescuer and she allowed him to take her to sanctuary.

Again my patience was tested with this comment "Whatever Richard's physical limitations-we know him to have been short, slight and perhaps even a hunchback." P109. But again I valiantly kept going. My thoughts kept going to the comment on the back of this book "Does little for R111's tattered reputation." BBC History Magazine.

Crowland tells us that Richard tracked Anne down, found her whereabouts and took her to safety. Richard took Anne from Clarence's custody to the College of St Martin-Le Grand in London. This was sometime before the 16th of February 1472. The courtship seems to have been fitted into the two months from late December 1471 to the Sheen Council of the 16th February 1472.

Hicks writes that all Richard was interested in was Anne's inheritance. He also says that some supporters of Richard think this too cynical a view—that we'd prefer a love match.

A lot of paragraphs are given to the need for papal dispensations (as had to be obtained by Isabel and Clarence.) Too much information to be boiled down easily. Clarence was happy about the union but it went ahead non-the-less. No wedding is recorded but believed to be on the 6th June 1474. Although there is speculation that the marriage took place earlier.

Because proper dispensation hasn't been obtained their marriage wouldn't have been valid and their off-spring deemed illegitimate and unable to inherit.

Chapter 5 Her Husband's Wife

Only one child, a son Edward was born to Anne and Richard. Edward was born at Middleham but no-one knows for certain when he was born.

As was usual Anne used a wet nurse for her baby Isabel Burgh.

Anne seems to have had the same fertility problems as her mother because there are no more children born to Anne and Richard (apparently through no lack of trying.) John Rous stated that Anne and Richard were unhappily married. But he was not actually in a position to make such a comment.

Anne is not mentioned in the heraldic accounts of many functions that Richard attended. Hicks says it is impossible to write a satisfactory account of Anne's married life.

"But Richard was an egotist and no respecter of women: if Anne exercised no political influence on her husband it may not have been because she was especially ineffective" P161 This is another statement I took exception to. On what evidence he bases these assertions I have no idea.

Apparently while Richard treated Anne's lands as his own he gave her money for her use. Anne attired herself in the most luxurious materials.

Chapter 6 Her King's Consort 1483-85

"Anne Duchess of Gloucester played no direct role in Duke Richard's usurpation of the crown." P167 Again the usurp word!!!! I was beginning to feel very unhappy about this assignment.

Anne wasn't present for the original coronation date of Richard's nephew but was in London in time for the new date set for King Edward V's coronation.

After the two princes were declared illegitimate Richard and Anne were crowned King and Queen on the 6th July. She shared most of Richard's reign but died before the Battle of Bosworth.

Anne was only the third Queen since the Norman conquest to be English born. Theirs was the first double coronation since 1308. On Saturday the 5th July the vigil of the coronation began. Anne's entourage followed those of her King. William Joseph and John Vavasour were two of Anne's gentleman ushers. They represented her two duchies of Aquitaine and Normandy. Next came the Queen's Chamberlain and then the Queen herself. She wore her hair loose over her shoulders and a gold circlet adorned with pearls and precious stones. She wore white cloth of gold, with a cloak and train furred with ermine and trimmed with lace, gold thread and tassels. She arrived seated on a litter born by two palfreys, led by Richard Lord Grey of Powis, attended by Thomas Hopton, gentleman of her chair and flanked by twelve knights.

Sunday the 6th of July was the coronation. Queen Anne wore a smock of lawn, a kirtle laced with seventy annulets beneath a regal surcoat and a mantle of crimson velvet secured by heavy silk and gold laces.

I think the description of the coronation is probably the most detail we have of Anne.

The King and Queen are re-united with their son after the coronation. Prince Edward was created The Prince of Wales.

Chapter 7 Past Her Sell-By-Date

Anne had very little time to enjoy being Queen. By January 1485 she was a sick woman and despite her youth, past having children. Her son had died and according to Hicks Richard played fast and loose with Anne's inheritance. Apparently he also had eyes on a replacement after Anne's death.

At least Hicks states that both Anne and Richard are distraught at the death of their son and this indicates a genuinely companionable marriage.

Anne by this point was very ill-so no chance of another heir. Her illness isn't known, but possibly tuberculosis.

Queen Anne died on the 16th of March 1485. There were rumours that Richard had poisoned her so that he could marry again. However as Anne was already dying there was no real need to hasten the process. Anne left no will.

A lot of this chapter goes into details about Richard's choice of his next consort-his niece Elizabeth of York.

By the time I got to this penultimate chapter I had read the word "usurp" a few more times and quite frankly had lost heart in this undertaking. I don't want to put you off reading this book I am only letting you know my bias.

Anne was buried at Westminster Abbey. No heraldic account survives for her funeral. Crowland does say however that she was buried "with honours no less than

befitted the burial of a queen.” P212

Chapter 8 Epilogue

Even though Anne was only twenty eight when she died she'd had a full life. She had status and high rank. She was the female ideal for the 15th century—a housewife, mother, keeper of a large establishment—all these things she was trained for.

She had plenty of bereavements in her short life as well. The killing of many of her relatives, loss of her sister (surmised to have been in childbirth), death of her first husband and death of her son. She was the central, albeit powerless figure in great events.

Hicks portrays Richard as an autocratic and egotistical husband who denied his wife the trappings of autonomy that other noblemen gave their consorts. But he does admit this could be because of the lack of sources for Anne's life.

Throughout the book there have been “probably” and “undoubtedly” sprinkled quite liberally. So what it boils down to is—there is simply not a lot of evidence to back up suppositions about Anne's life.

Anne remains an enigma.

Rilla McEvoy 1/6/2019

Interesting website redbubble.com.au for all sorts and especially for Ricardian t-shirts, stickers, bags, mugs etc. Probably shouldn't include pictures (infringing copyright?) but it will give you some idea of what's available. Worth a look and yes I caved and ordered stuff! I'll show you next meeting. Also think of a topic, any topic, eg corgis, Dr Who, Blackadder, whales, Egypt, etc and their range seems enormous. I'm impressed with the two t-shirts and tote bag I ordered.



From History Extra 17 unsolved historical mysteries

6. Richard III and the Princes in the Tower

Dr David Clarke: In 2012 the skeleton of the last Plantagenet king of England, Richard III, was unearthed from beneath a council car park on the site of Greyfriars in Leicester city centre. The dig that unearthed his remains was instigated by Philippa Langley of the Richard III Society as a direct result of a “strange feeling” she had when visiting the

site. This apparent example of psychic archaeology is not the only mystery that surrounds Richard's life and death. His precise role in the fate of his two nephews – popularly known as 'The princes in the Tower' – remains a subject of enduring mystery. The 12-year-old Edward and his nine-year-old brother, Richard of Shrewsbury, the sons of King Edward IV, were lodged in the Tower of London by their uncle, Richard, at the time of their disappearance in 1483.

No one knows exactly what happened to them, but a box containing two small human skeletons was found near the White Tower in the 17th century and, at the time, was widely believed to be the remains of the princes.

Megan Westley: Detractors of this most infamous king claim that when Richard III was granted guardianship of his brother Edward IV's sons in 1483, he repaid him by declaring the boys illegitimate, stealing the crown, and having his charges killed.

Interestingly, the case is not as two-dimensional as it seems. It's likely that Richard acted according to his conscience by taking the throne from his nephew. There was strong evidence suggesting Edward IV's marriage may have been bigamous, making the future king illegitimate: something Richard's religious principles couldn't tolerate.

Having firmly removed his nephews from the throne, there is little reason for Richard to have ordered their deaths. A far more likely candidate was his successor, Henry VII, whose own claim was tenuous.



Richard III's precise role in the fate of his two nephews – popularly known as 'The Princes in the Tower' – remains a subject of enduring mystery. (Photo by The Print Collector/Print Collector/Getty Images) [SubscribeQuizQ&AFAQUnlock The Library](#)

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Continuing journeys of Judith :

6 June 2019 **Subject: Knitting friends**

I was in this shop buying material last week and spoke to this group of knitting ladies and one man. I joined them this week. I shared what we do at Friendship centre. I've been given these things and more promised before I go home. They think it's wonderful to send their knitting to the other side of the world to support our Aboriginal people . The jacket is made from the same pattern I've just used. (One in my handwriting in folder) how amazing . I'm going to see my sister next week but will join them again. I showed them photos of F. C and some of the things we make. Love Judith



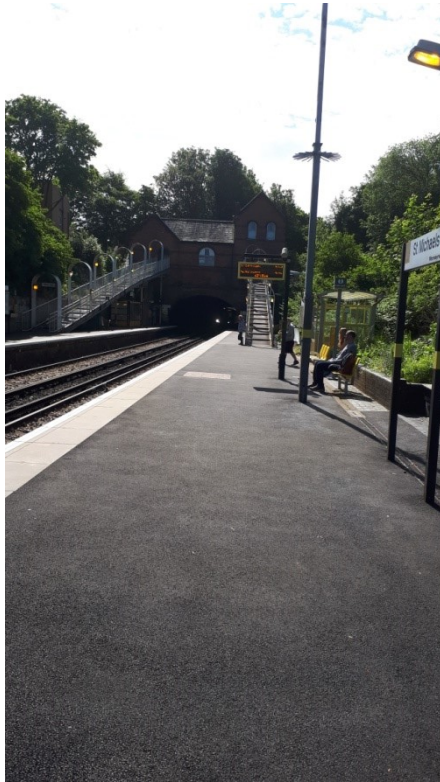
Date: 18 June 2019 at 7:35:04 am ACST

Subject: News from Sussex

I've just had a week staying with my sister in Hailsham which is a country town in the south of England near where I lived as a child. It was a long train journey last Tuesday because of lots of rain which delayed them. It was a 6 hour journey. It's been overcast, cool and some rain most of the time but brighter today. I've got my sister knitting, she's made a teddy, first knitting she's done for ages. I've seen many relations and last Friday spent the afternoon gambling with some of the people who live in the retirement place where my sister lives! We played Bingo, my card cost about \$1.75 and I won about \$3.50 ! It was a fun afternoon with lots of laughter. I'm going back to Liverpool tomorrow . Love Judith xx

Date: 20 June 2019 at 3:56:12 pm ACST

Subject: A grand day out. Back in Liverpool, Louise is working in London and as the weather has improved I caught the train to the city today. St Michael's Station is pretty with a garden, I had about a 10 minute walk to where the knitting group meet and they had rugs and bonnets for me, they're so pleased to be supporting us. I spent about an hour and a half with them. I then treated myself to a lovely chicken curry. Love Judith x



Date: 21 June 2019 at 5:33:10 pm ACST

Subject: News from Liverpool

Hi. I hope that you are keeping well and that your life is running smoothly! I'm back from my visit to Barb. I caught up with some of the family, joined in with the activities where she lives and met up with Roland's sister too. The weather was cool, sunny, warm and wet, typical English weather, my trip down took 6 hours because of torrential rain in some areas, but only 5 coming back! The knitters I've met in Liverpool are lovely and so excited about sending their work to Australia. I'm going to Birmingham with Louise next week as she's working there. We're going by train. My knee is still

sore and 'gives out' if I'm not careful but my tooth seems ok. Louise and I are making plans for when Anita arrives at the end of July. It's almost 9 am and I had better get up, not usually so late but I've had a hectic few days. Blue sky at the moment, perhaps Summer is coming. Love Judith xx



Chairwoman *Rilla McEvoy*

Secretary *Sue Walladge*

Contact Home 84436153 Mobile 0411336927

walladge@internode.on.net susanmjlw@gmail.com

If you have an urgent email please use my gmail email as that's checked daily, the internode email twice a week usually.

website richardiii-sa.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/RichardIIISA>