

WHAT THE BADGERS

SAW 6

The Tudors



Now sit back and hear about another time in the history of badgers and people in our county.



Look up anything in blue.

The Wars of the Roses were a series of civil wars for the throne of England. They were fought between supporters of two rival sides of the Royal House of Plantagenet: the houses of Lancaster and York (the "red" and the "white" rose). They were fought in a number of periods between 1455 and 1485, although there was some fighting both before and after this period. The final victory went to a Lancastrian, Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, who married Elizabeth of York, the daughter of the late Yorkist king Edward IV, to make peace, and the two factions founded the House of Tudor, which ruled England and Wales for 117 years, until the succession of the Scottish House of Stuart.

Find out how the Plantagenets got their name

Wartime is no time to be a peace-loving badger!

Here in the north, there was trouble between two great families – the Percies and the Nevilles. Locals joined one family or the other. Both families suffered great losses!

In 1483, King Edward IV died, and his young sons disappeared. They had been held in the Tower of London. (Look up 'The Princes in the Tower'). Their uncle Richard became king. He was a friend of Henry Percy, and made him a very powerful man in the north.

In 1485, Richard III was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field, and the winner of the battle became king. He was Henry Tudor, and he became Henry VII.

As far as we in the north were concerned, however, 1485 didn't bring much change. The North was still poor. In fact it was probably poorer than ever, because of the fighting during the Wars of the Roses!

It was still the most lawless part of England, and it was still threatened by the Scots. There was no real peace, good government or prosperity!



This was a bad time for the Nevilles of Raby. However, the Percies had more luck. Henry Percy kept a splendid household! He had 166 servants! He dressed in all the best clothes and bought lots of books for his library. He spent a fortune for decorations to his castles.

However, Henry Percy died deep in debt, and his son had to sell his lands to King Henry VIII

Look up Raby and Alnwick Castles.



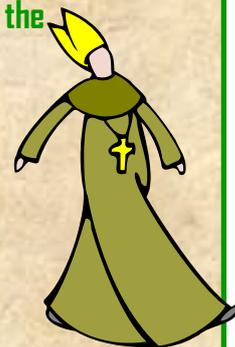
At first it was a good time for the Bishops of Durham. They got even more lands given to him.

However, the Bishop's power was much reduced in the time of Henry VIII. At that time, the king was quarrelling with the Pope about divorcing his wife, Katherine of Aragon.

An Act of Parliament in 1536 closed many of the monasteries and convents in England.

Many people in the north were fed up with the king's powers. They all joined together in a rising called the Pilgrimage of Grace. This was serious for the king!

The rebels marched south to Doncaster, but couldn't cross the River Don because The Duke of Norfolk and some of the king's men was guarding the bridge.



After a while, the Duke allowed the rebels to pass and go to see Henry VIII. But Henry arrested some of the leaders and they were executed! The rest of the people were terrified!



Nice guy, our Henry!



In 1537, the Council of the North became the government of the north. Bishop Tunstall of Durham became its first President. The council did a good job.

In 1539, the great abbeys were closed by Henry. By 1545, most of the hospitals were also closed. This was called the Reformation.

The Council of the North could not stop more trouble! Many here did not like the church that Queen Elizabeth I set up at the beginning of her reign.

In 1568, Mary Queen of Scots fled from Scotland and hid in the north of England.

She was a friend of the Roman Catholic Earls of Westmorland and Northumberland.



Many others supported Mary because they wanted their old religion back, with the Pope as head of the church instead of the Queen. Phillip II of Spain supported Mary, and this made the Earls even more dangerous!



The Earl of Sussex marched against the rebels and the Earls fled to Scotland. Westmorland escaped to the continent, but Northumberland was handed over to Elizabeth, and was executed at York. Eight hundred rebels were hanged - 66 of them at Durham!

The death of Elizabeth I and the arrival of James I brought the two kingdoms together. But the Scots and northern English were still very lawless. There was so much stealing that James I used dogs to track down the bandits!

Looks like we were still a rum lot, even then!



Here and there, were a few signs that things were getting better in the north. The coal industry grew, and there were new 'Lords of Coal' at Newcastle, who developed the River Tyne and opened new collieries in Northumberland and Weardale.

James I gave jobs to people who wouldn't have had one. Many had to work for the lord. They had to be prepared to fight against the Scots.

