Primary Source Project

Written Assignment

Part Four: Primary and Secondary Source Research

Student Name
Class # Name and Section Letter
Time and Days of Section
Date of assignment turned in
1. Origins:

Write your own answer here. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

2. Authorship:

Write your own answer here. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

3. Objectivity:

Write your own answer here. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

4. Accuracy:

Write your own answer here. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

5. Content:

Write your own answer here. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

6. Value:

Write your own answer here. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. Quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.
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6. Value:

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Bibliography

Tertiary Sources


Secondary Sources


Primary Sources


MICHAEL JONES

1485 The Battle of Bosworth

That Transformed England

Also by Michael Jones
Richard III and His Early Historians

1483-1485

by

ALISON HANHAM

VERGIl AND OTHERS

Veert and others

the letter and with the short and soue countenance descried by Polydore

Richard of Chichester may be the dark man in profile in the foreground, wearing

Jan de Wauin presents his Chronicle to Edward IV (in Burgers, 1470).
Richard III, Lord Hastings and the historians

I

In 1878 James Gairdner commented in the introduction to his Life of Richard III: 'It was the opinion of the late Mr. Buckle that a certain skeptical tendency - a predisposition to doubt all commonly received opinions until they were found to stand the test of argument - was the first essential to the discovery of new truth. I must confess that my own experience does not verify this remark; and whatever may be said for it as regards science, I cannot but think the skeptical spirit a most fatal one in history.' In one important regard this standpoint has had an unfortunate effect on all subsequent accounts of Richard's usurpation. It led Gairdner first to make the assumption, on dubious evidence, that Richard had arrested and executed the lord chamberlain, William, Lord Hastings, on Friday, 13 June 1483, a whole thirteen days before he took the throne; and secondly to state this assumption with unwarranted dogmatism. In 1936 two documents were published which should have compelled a careful reassessment, but by then the traditional dating, with Gairdner's backing, so far constituted 'received opinion' that their evidence was rejected or ignored. I shall contend in this paper that in fact Hastings was arrested (and immediately executed) not on 13 June but a week later, on 20 June; that this is shown by contemporary evidence; and that correcting the date explains some notorious inconsistencies in Tudor accounts, and greatly clarifies the roles played by Hastings and his friends, and by Richard himself, in the events that led up to Richard's accession.

Basically, Gairdner accepted that Lord Hastings' execution occurred on 13 June because this is stated in all the early histories that give any dates at all. Such unanimity is extremely rare among them. It is impossible entirely to exclude the spirit of scepticism in writing about Richard III, and on two other chronological points in particular.

2. "There is no doubt whatever about the fact, declared by a Concordance of Testimo-

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Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought
RICHARD III — USURPER OR LAWFUL KING?

By Mortimer Levine

Paul Murray Kendall’s recent biography of Richard III raises anew the question of whether or not that monarch was an usurper. Although Professor Kendall does not dogmatically say that Richard was a lawful king, he makes an apparent attempt to justify his claim to succeed Edward IV. Now the validity of Richard’s title is not essential to Kendall’s main theme, which I take to be the demolition of the Tudor picture of Richard as the devil incarnate, but the case he presents for his claim has implications that reach beyond the fifteenth-century situation with which he primarily concerned. If he is correct, the Yorkist claim of Henry VIII and his successors is void and the validity of their titles must rest upon the not-too-firm ground of Henry VII’s descent from a legitimate son of John of Gaunt. Therefore, Kendall’s case, which may at first glance appear strong, ought to be examined with care.

His case is essentially that presented by Richard and his cohorts in June 1485. It is stated by the contemporary “second continuator” of the Croyland Chronicle as follows:

It was set forth . . . that the sons of King Edward were bastards, on the ground that he had contracted a marriage with one Lady Eleanor Butler before his marriage to Queen Elizabeth; added to which, the blood of his other brother, George, Duke of Clarence, had been attained; so that, at the present time, no certain and uncorrupted Linal blood could be found of Richard, Duke of York, except in the person of . . . Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

It first must be pointed out that whether Edward IV’s precontract with Lady Eleanor Butler was real or invented is not, as Kendall apparently assumes, the only matter at issue. A precontract would hardly rule out all of Edward’s children by Elizabeth Woodville. Lady Eleanor died in 1400. Edward, prince of Wales, and Richard, Duke of York, the ill-fated “little princes,” were born in 1470 and 1472 respectively. It is difficult to see how their legitimacy can be denied. A precontract would not affect the status of sons born after it had been terminated by Lady Eleanor’s death, their parents lived together openly and accepted by the church and the nation as man and wife. Thus Kendall’s case, as far as it

1 P. M. Kendall, Richard the Third (London, 1943).
2 John Beaufort, earl of Somerset, born by Gaunt’s mistress in 1373 when her husband and his second wife were still alive. In 1396, after the death of their respective spouses, Gaunt married the lady, and in the next year their offspring were legitimated in a patent of Richard II which was confirmed by an act of Parliament. Henry IV confirmed the patent in 1406 but added the words “excepta dignitate regali.” Though J. D. Mackie (The Earlier Tudors (Oxford, 1949), p. 48, n. 1) may be correct in maintaining that Henry’s addition could not avail against the act confirming Richard’s patent, it is questionable that Richard’s legitimation could extend to the crown in the case of bastards born while their parents’ lawful spouses were living.
4 Kendall, p. 478.
5 In September 1484, four months after its legitimation, the marriage of Edward IV and Elizabeth

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