Addendum

Timelines

55BC - 1087AD
The Romans to William I

Kingship
The Romans in Britain face resistance from Caractacus, Boudicca and some marauding Celts.

Athelstan, the First Sovereign
The first king of Wessex beats the Celts, the Danes, the Norwegians, Constantine, king of the Scots, and Olaf of Dublin to create a united kingdom.

Dunstan and Canute
Aethelred the Unready is forced to pay enormous bribes to marauding Vikings.

Canute and Edmund Ironside
Canute subdues the Yorkshire Danes and sacks Oxford and Winchester, but the tide turns against him when Edmund Ironside becomes king of Wessex.

Godwine and Edward the Confessor
The English must decide between respect for the royal line and the need to be protected.

The Battle of Stamford Bridge
Harold II beats his half brother in battle but doesn't bother to wait for reinforcements before marching his depleted army to Hastings.

The Battle of Hastings
William the Conqueror's mounted knights and well-trained archers take on Harold's travel-weary foot soldiers.

The Conquest
William the Conqueror is crowned King William I on Christmas Day 1066.

Domesday
William the Conqueror wants to know who owns what because he needs to raise money.

Death of the Conqueror
William I's eldest son Robert resents his father's long life and conspires with the French Court to overthrow him.

Chronology

55BC Julius Caesar
43AD Conquest began
410 Romans leave
450 St Patrick
477 Saxons land in Sussex
494 Jutes in Kent
518 King Arthur
550 St David
563 St Columba
597 St Augustine
715 Beowulf
731 Venerable Bede
760 The Book of Kells
783 Offa's Dyke
891 Anglo Saxon Chronicle begins
916 Vikings attack Ireland
924 Athelstan becomes king
954 Eric Bloodaxe of Norway is routed at York
English take Northumbria
959 Edgar king of England
960 St Dunstan Archbishop of Canterbury
978 Edward the Martyr murdered at Corfe Castle
1013 Aethelred forced into exile in Normandy
1014 Death of Sweyn I Forkbeard of Denmark
1016 Edmund II Ironside chosen as king but defeated by Cnut
1034 Duncan I, king of Scots
1035 Harold I Harefoot, king of England
1040 Harthacnut becomes king of England
Macbeth becomes king of Scotland
1042 Edward the Confessor becomes king of England
1052 Earl Godwine returns to England and regains Wessex
1058 Malcolm III Canmore, king of Scots
1064 Harold visits William II Normandy
1066 Harold II becomes king
Defeats Harold Hardrada and Tostig at Stamford Bridge
Defeated by William of Normandy at Hastings
William I, the Conqueror becomes king
1070 Lanfrac becomes Archbishop of Canterbury
1072 William the Conqueror invades Scotland
Malcolm III of Scots pays homage to William
1078 William the Conqueror begins the Tower of London
1086 Domesday
1087 William the Conqueror dies
William Rufus becomes king of England
Robert becomes II Duke of Normandy

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1087 - 1327
William II to Edward II

William Rufus and the First Crusade
William II is mysteriously shot by a stray arrow while hunting in the New Forest.

Henry I and the Scottish Kings
Scots claim territory as far south as Lancashire, as Scotland reaches the height of its powers.

Justice, Power and the Death of Henry
England faces turbulent times as Henry I is taken ill on a visit to France.

Anarchy
The Archbishop of York, King David I of the Scots, Henry I's bastard son, Robert of Gloucester, and his half sister Matilda head a huge rebellion.

Henry Plantagenet
Henry II strengthens central government's control over Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

The Law the Church and the Coming Tragedy
Henry II reorganizes the legal system, to create juries and the Common Law.

Becket
The Archbishop of Canterbury escapes imprisonment for contempt of court and flees to Normandy.

Murder in the Cathedral
While in exile in Normandy, the Archbishop of Canterbury plans to excommunicate the King.

Penance, Rebellion and Ireland
Henry II dies heartbroken after being defeated in war by his son Richard.

Coeur de Lion
Richard the Lionheart ruthlessly taxes the nation to fund his crusade to rescue the Holy Land from the infidel.

The Third Crusade and the Death of the Lionheart
Duke Leopold of Austria sells Richard I to the Holy Roman Emperor, Henry VI, who demands a huge ransom.

Bad King John and the Loss of Normandy
John imprisons and murders his nephew Arthur, Prince of Brittany.

Magna Carta
The Barons and the English Church establish a law that even the King must not break.

Chronology

1087 William the Conqueror dies
William Rufus becomes king of England
Robert becomes II Duke of Normandy
1088 Odo of Bayeaux challenged William Rufus on Robert's behalf
1093 Donald III Bane, king of Scots
1097 Edgar, king of Scots
1100 William Rufus dies
Henry I becomes king of England
1101 Treaty of Alton confirms Henry I as king of England and Robert as Duke of Normandy
1106 Henry I defeats Robert at Tinchebrai and becomes Duke of Normandy
1107 Alexander I becomes king of Scotland
1120 Henry I's son and heir drowns, Matilda is heiress
1124 David I becomes king of Scotland
1128 Matilda marries Geoffrey of Anjou
1135 Stephen I becomes king of England
1138 Civil war begins. David I of Scots invades England
Robert of Gloucester supports Matilda's claim
1139 Matilda arrives in England
1141 Matilda and Robert of Gloucester defeat Stephen at Lincoln
1145 Stephen is victorious at Farringdon
1152 Henry Plantagenet marries Eleanor of Aquitaine
1153 Malcolm IV, king of Scots
Henry Plantagenet is recognized as Stephen's heir
1154 Stephen dies
Henry II becomes king
Nicholas Breakspear becomes Pope Adrian IV
1155 Henry receives papal bull to conquer and rule Ireland
1162 Thomas Becket becomes archbishop of Canterbury
1164 Constitutions of Clarendon are issued
1165 William I, the Lion, of Scots
1170 Richard de Clare invades Ireland
1177 Henry II's youngest son, John, is made lord of Ireland
1183 Henry the Young King dies
1189 Henry is defeated by his son Richard and Philip II Augustus of France
Richard I, the Lionheart, becomes king
1190 Richard joined the Third Crusade
1192 Richard is imprisoned in Germany
1194 Richard returns to England
1199 Richard dies while fighting in France
John I becomes king of England

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The Barons' War
At the age of nine, Henry III inherits the throne of a country at Civil War.
Henry III
Richard the Marshal and Prince Llewellyn fight the King in the Welsh Marches and sack Shrewsbury.
Simon de Montfort
Edward I escapes from de Montfort.
A Day in the Life of 13th-Century England
The Statute of the Jewry bans Jews from owning land.
Chancery, Treasury and a 13th-Century Wedding Brawl
The King threatens to execute barons who refuse to fight for him.
The Welsh Wars and the Most-Feared Weapon
English mercenaries do battle in Wales.
The Maid of Norway and Robert the Bruce
William Wallace leads the Scots to victory at Stirling Bridge.
The King's Favourite and Bannockburn
Robert the Bruce defeats Edward II at Falkirk.
The Ghastly Execution
Edward II is murdered by his wife and her lover.

Chronology

1200 John makes peace with France and marries Isabel of Angouleme
John marries Isabel of Angouleme
1203 Arthur of Brittany is murdered
1204 John loses French territories to Philip Augustus of France
1207 John refuses to accept Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury
Papal interdict is imposed on England
1213 John offers the Pope England as a fiefdom
1214 Alexander II, king of Scots
1215 Barons force John to accept Magna Carta
1216 John dies
Henry III becomes king of England
William the Marshal becomes regent
1217 Louis (VIII) defeated at the Battle of Lincoln
1219 William the Marshal dies
1221 Alexander II, king of Scots marries Joan, daughter of King John
1236 Henry III marries Eleanor of Provence
1238 Simon de Montfort marries Henry III's sister, Eleanor
1249 Alexander III, king of Scots
1258 Provisions of Oxford
1259 Provisions of Westminster
1264 Second Barons' War
1265 De Montfort dies at Battle of Evesham
1271 Henry III dies
Edward I becomes king Marco Polo goes to China
1272 Henry III dies
Edward I becomes king
1274 Edward returns from his Crusade and is crowned king
1277 Edward begins his campaign in Wales
1282 Llewellyn, Prince of North Wales dies at Builth
1283 Edward I conquers Wales, Statute of Wales
1290 Edward expels Jews from England
1291 Edward arbitrates over Scottish succession
1292 John Balliol, king of Scots
1296 Edward begins his campaign in Scotland
1306 Robert I, the Bruce, king of Scotland
1307 Edward I dies
Edward II becomes king
1314 English defeated at Bannockburn
1318 Edward II regains England and the Despensers rise to power
1322 Edward II defeats the Marcher lords and the Lancastrians
Thomas of Lancaster is executed
1326 Queen Isabella and Mortimer invade England

http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/sceptred_isle/55bc.shtml

1327 - 1547
Edward III to Henry VIII

Isabella and Mortimer
Edward III gives his seven-year-old sister to Robert the Bruce's five-year-old son.

Edward III and the Start of the Hundred Years' War
Edward III makes a claim to the throne of France, and the English win a great sea battle.

Crecy, Calais and the Garter
Edward and his 16-year-old son invade France and reach the gates of Paris before being driven back to Crecy where they fight an horrific battle.

The Black Death
The Scots invade as England is devastated by floods, famine and plague.

The Black Prince and the Death of Edward III
Edward, the Black Prince, holds King John II of France to ransom in the Tower of London.

Richard II, Wat Tyler and the Peasants' Revolt
The Chancellor and the Treasurer are beheaded by an angry mob of rebellious peasants.

Lancaster and Bolingbroke
Henry Bolingbroke of Lancaster marches on London and murders the King's favourite Robert de Vere.

Henry IV, Hotspur and the Stake
The King makes it legal to burn convicted heretics at the stake.

Henry V
The English are outnumbered at the battle of Agincourt.

Henry VI, Joan of Arc and Another Road to War
Henry VI becomes King of England at the age of nine months.

The Wars of the Roses
The King has a breakdown and the Lancastrians rise against the Government.

Richard III, the Princes in the Tower and Bosworth
Richard murders his nephews, aged 12 and nine.

Chronology

1327 Edward II is deposed
Edward III becomes King
Isabella & Mortimer govern
Scots invade England
1328 Edward III recognizes Robert the Bruce as King of Scotland
1329 Edward II died, almost certainly murdered
David II, King of Scots
1330 Mortimer arrested and executed
Edward III seizes power and executes Mortimer
1332 Edward Balliol invades Scotland and is crowned King
1333 Scots expel Edward Balliol
Edward III defeats the Scots at Halidon Hill
1334 David II of Scots flees to France
1337 Start of 100 Years War
1340 England win naval victory over French
1341 David II returns to Scotland
1346 England defeats France at Crecy
Edward defeats a Scottish invasion and captures David II
1348 Order of the Garter is founded
The Black Death reaches England
1355 The Hundred Years' War is renewed
1356 Edward the Black Prince defeats the French at Poitiers
John II of Scotland is captured
1357 Edward III releases David II
1361 Edward, the Black Prince fights in Spain and contracts a disease
1376 Edward, the Black Prince dies
1377 Edward III dies
Richard II becomes King of England
John Of Gaunt is Steward of England
1381 Peasants' Revolt
1387 Lord Appellants win victory
1388 Merciless Parliament
1390 Robert III, King of Scots
1394 Richard II leads successful invasion of Ireland
1398 Henry Bolingbroke exiled
1399 Death of John of Gaunt
Richard II deposed
Henry IV becomes King of England
Richard II confiscates Bolingbroke's inheritance
Henry of Lancaster (Bolingbroke) deposes Richard II
1400 Richard II dies
1402 Sir Henry Percy wins victory over Scots
1403 Percys Revolt
Henry IV victorious at Shrewsbury
Sir Henry Percy killed
1405 Henry IV crushes Scrope's rebellion
1406 James I, King of Scotland

http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/sceptred_isle/55bc.shtml

The First Tudor King
Richard III's sister sends two pretenders to overcome Henry VII.
Henry VIII, Flodden and Wolsey
James IV is killed in a bloody battle against the Scots.
Erasmus, Anne Boleyn and the Death of Wolsey
Henry VIII insists the Pope should acknowledge his marriage as a Papal mistake.
The End of the Monasteries and Little Jack Horner
Anne Boleyn is beheaded and Henry VIII marries Jayne Seymour.
The Auld Alliance and the Death of Henry VIII
The Scots and the French unite against the England.

1408 End of Percys Revolt
1413 Henry V becomes King of England
1415 Henry V is victorious at Agincourt
1420 Treaty of Troyes declares Henry V heir to the French throne
1422 Henry VI becomes King
Humphrey of Gloucester and John of Lancaster - protectors
1429 Joan of Arc is victorious at Orleons
Charles VII of France crowned at Rouen
1431 Joan of Arc burned at Rouen
1437 James II, King of Scots
1445 Henry VI marries Margaret of Anjou
1453 The Hundred Years' War ends at Castillon
1454 Henry VI temporarily insane - Richard of York protector
1455 Wars of the Roses begin
St Albans - Yorkists defeat Lancastrians. Beaufort dies.
1460 Warwick captures Henry VI at Northampton
James III, King of Scots
1461 Edward IV wins at Towton and is crowned King
Margaret and Henry flee to Scotland
1465 Henry VI is recaptured and imprisoned in the Tower
1469 Earl of Warwick and Duke of Clarence plot against Edward IV.
Henry VI is restored to the throne and Edward flees to Flanders
1471 Edward IV lands in England, defeats Warwick at Barnet
Imprisons Henry VI who is later murdered
1483 Edward IV dies
Edward V, King of England
Richard of Gloucester imprisons Edward V and his brother in the Tower where they disappear
Richard III declared King of England
1485 Henry Tudor defeats and kills Richard III at Bosworth
Crowned Henry VII, King of England
1486 Henry VII marries Elizabeth of York
1487 Lambert Simnel's rebellion crushed
1488 James IV, King of Scots
1491 Perkin Warbeck claims the throne
1497 Warbeck captured by Henry VII
1501 Prince Arthur and Catherine of Aragon marry in London
1502 Prince Arthur dies
1503 Betrothal of Prince Henry to Catherine of Aragon
James IV of Scots marries Margaret Tudor, Henry's daughter
1509 Henry VII dies
Henry VIII becomes King
Henry VIII marries Catherine of Aragon

http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/sceptred_isle/55bc.shtml

1513 Henry VIII defeats France at the Battle of Spurs
James IV of Scots invades England and is defeated and killed at Flodden
James V, King of Scots
1514 Wolsey becomes Archbishop of York
Mary Tudor, Henry's sister, marries Louis XII of France
1515 Wolsey becomes Lord Chancellor and cardinal
Francis I becomes King of France
1516 Birth of Princess Mary
1518 Wolsey made Papal Legate
1519 Charles V becomes Holy Roman Emperor
1520 Henry VIII meets Francis I of France at the Field of the Cloth of Gold.
1529 Wolsey falls from power
Sir Thomas More becomes Chancellor
1531 Thomas Cromwell becomes a privy councillor
1533 Henry VIII secretly marries Anne Boleyn
Cranmer is made Archbishop of Canterbury
Cranmer grants Henry's divorce
Birth of Princess Elizabeth
1534 Act of Supremacy
1536 Catherine of Aragon dies
Anne Boleyn is executed
Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour
1537 Prince Edward is born
Jane Seymour dies
1538 James V of Scots marries Mary of Guise
Henry VIII is excommunicated
1540 Henry VIII marries and divorces Anne of Cleves
Thomas Cromwell is executed
Henry VIII marries Catherine Howard
1542 Catherine Howard executed
English defeat Scots at Solway Moss
Mary Queen of Scots becomes queen
1543 Henry VIII marries Catherine Parr
1547 Henry VIII dies
Edward VI becomes King of England and Ireland
Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, becomes lord Protector

http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/sceptred_isle/55bc.shtml

Millennium Timeline

To celebrate the start of the new Millennium, here is a timeline covering a thousand years of Durham history. It shows at which point key events in the life of Durham Cathedral and Castle took place. Please note that the dates given for many of the earlier events are only approximate.

DYNASTY	MONARCH	EVENT
SAXON	Ethelred the Unready (979-1016)	995 The remains of St Cuthbert reach their last resting place on the Peninsula at Durham. 998 The 'White Church' - Saxon predecessor of the present Cathedral - is dedicated.
	Edmund Ironside (1016)	
DANISH	Canute (1016-1035)	1022 The remains of St Bede are brought to Durham by a monk called Alfred.
	Harold Harefoot (1035-1040)	
	Hardecanute (1040-1042)	
SAXON (Restored)	Edward the Confessor (1042-1066)	
	Harold (1066)	
NORMAN	William the Conqueror (1066-1087)	1072 The King orders the construction of Durham Castle. 1080 The Norman Chapel within the Castle is completed. 1081 The King elevates the Bishops of Durham to the rank of Prince Bishops. 1083 The Benedictine Monastery is founded.
	William II (1087-1100)	1093 Construction of the present Norman Cathedral - and dismantling of the Saxon 'White Church' - commences.
	Henry I (1100-1135)	1104 With the completion of the Choir of the Cathedral, the remains St Cuthbert are moved to a shrine at the east end. 1110 The Cathedral's North Transept and South Transept are finished. 1130 The Monks' Door is installed on the south side of the Cathedral. 1133 The Nave of the Cathedral is completed.
	Stephen (1135-1154)	1138 The original Chapter House of the Monastery is completed. 1140 The North Door of the Cathedral with its Sanctuary Knocker is installed.

http://www.dur.ac.uk/~dla0www/c_tour/timeline.html

PLANTAGENET	Henry II (1154-1189)	1170 The Castle's Norman Gallery is finished.
	Richard I (1189-1199)	1189 The Cathedral's Galilee Chapel is completed.
	John (1199-1216)	
	Henry III (1216-1272)	1226 The Cathedral's twin West Towers are completed. 1262 The original Central Tower of the Cathedral is finished.
	Edward I (1272-1307)	1274 The Cathedral's Chapel of the Nine Alters is completed. 1300 Construction of the Castle's Great Hall commences.
	Edward II (1307-1327)	
	Edward III (1327-1377)	1346 A large Scottish army is defeated at the Battle of Neville's Cross - within sight of Durham. 1370 The remains of St Bede are moved to a shrine in the Galilee Chapel. 1374 The Great Kitchen of the Monastery is completed. 1376 The Bishop's Throne and Hatfield Chantry in the Cathedral are installed.
	Richard II (1377-1399)	1380 Consecration of the Cathedral's Neville Screen.
LANCASTER	Henry IV (1399-1413)	1404 The Monks' Dormitory in the Monastery is completed.
	Henry V (1413-1422)	1417 The Neville Chantry is created in the Cathedral.
	Henry VI (1422-1461)	1429 The Cathedral's Central Tower is severely damaged by lightning on the eve of Corpus Christi.

http://www.dur.ac.uk/~dla0www/c_tour/timeline.html

The Magna Charta

The Magna Charta

"No freeman shall be taken, nor imprisoned, nor disseized,
nor outlawed, nor exiled, nor destroyed in any manner;
nor will we pass upon him, nor condemn him,
but by the lawful judgment of his peers,
or by the law of the land.
We will sell to none,
we will deny nor delay to none right and justice."
Magna Charta

From 1199 to 1216 King John caused tremendous turmoil in his attempts to rule England. One of the results of his ineptness was the signing of the Great Charter (Magna Charta). The prime mover behind this great breakthrough in human rights was a man named Stephen Langton. By oppressing the provinces of Anjou, Touraine, Maine, and Normandy, John lost the support of their barons, and after some battles these provinces were taken over by King Philip of France. Although Pope Innocent III had assisted John against Philip, John's refusal to grant the payments due from Richard's will led to a quarrel with the Pope over the appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury. The younger monks of Canterbury had selected and installed Reginald, immediately sending him off to Rome to be confirmed by the Pope. John, who frequently acted out of anger and resentment, demanded that the Bishop of Norwich, John de Grey, be elected instead, and the King sent off a deputation to the Pope with a gift of twelve thousand marks. Pope Innocent III responded to all of this by choosing his own man, Stephen Langton. Stephen was born in England and had become the leading teacher at the university in Paris. He agreed with Becket's view that the lordship of God was higher than the power of kings. In Paris Stephen taught Lothario who at the age of 37 became Pope Innocent III. The new Pope called his friend to Rome where Stephen became the most popular preacher. Stephen was a biblical scholar and helped future generations by dividing the Scriptures into chapters. He also wrote histories of Henry II and Richard and composed the hymn, *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*, which is sung in England as *Come, Thou Holy Spirit, Come.* The Pope released John's representatives from their promise to him, and eleven of the twelve canons were won over to Innocent's choice of the capable Stephen.

John, however, refused to allow Stephen Langton to enter England, and the Pope retaliated by pronouncing an interdict on John's domain, which closed the churches and canceled all religious services and rituals. John started confiscating church property, and Innocent excommunicated the King. As a diversion John fought battles in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, but the lack of religious rituals to which they were so accustomed must have deeply affected the people. Meanwhile Stephen resided at Pontigny, studied the situation, and wrote letters to the important people in England; it was made a criminal offense to read these letters. Finally the king invited Cardinal Langton to meet him at Dover, but Stephen refused because he had been addressed as cardinal instead of archbishop. He asked John to pay for everything the Church had lost. In 1212 the Pope freed all subjects of John from their oaths of allegiance to him and declared that anyone who served the King was excommunicated. The Pope then deposed John and granted his crown to Philip. The French prepared to invade England, but the English, afraid for their own safety, rallied their defenses. Although the English were winning a naval battle at the time, John was

afraid and made an agreement with the papal legate Pandulf to return ecclesiastical property, submit his crown to the Pope in feudal vassalage, and pay an annual tribute for the withdrawal of the decrees of interdict, excommunication, and deposition. John thus ruled England as a papal fief, and churchmen were reinstated. Langton was received by a prostrated John, but the Archbishop could not give him the kiss of peace because the ban of excommunication was still in effect. In Winchester Cathedral Stephen did absolve John of his sins and perform the Holy Eucharist, although Innocent resented this infringement of his prerogative. Innocent had to call off Philip who was prepared for war, and the French King was so frustrated that he attacked Flanders.

Finally after another year the interdict was lifted. John attacked France to try to win back the lost provinces, but he had little support from the English aristocracy who felt that they had been sold out to Rome. While John was away, Stephen Langton preached at St. Paul's in London and held a meeting with the barons in which he produced an old document signed by Henry I which granted specific English liberties. When John returned defeated from France, he tried to take out his animosity by demanding scutage or payment from all who had not supported military service. The barons, stimulated by Stephen's research and ideas, demanded a return to these laws certified by Henry 1. They gathered their forces which outnumbered the King's and met John at Runnymede. Stephen Langton with the help of Saire de Quincey spent four days drafting a document that everyone could accept. This Great Charter which was signed there on June 15, 1215 has been considered perhaps the most important document in English history. They agreed upon liberties and principles of law which could protect people from the tyrannical actions of men in power. The rights of *habeas corpus*, due process of law, and trial by jury were formulated. Although no implementation procedures were instituted, it became a standard to which everyone could refer, and the idea of a parliamentary council was included.

John immediately tried to renounce the agreement by appealing to the Pope. The ailing Innocent annulled the Charter and excommunicated the barons. However, Stephen Langton refused to publish the edict and left for Rome, while church authorities suspended the Archbishop for two years and helped John raise an army of mercenaries. At Rome Langton was castigated by the Pope and was not allowed to speak at the Fourth Lateran Council when he was denounced and the barons were condemned as disobedient vassals. This same council, which determined to fight a crusade against the Cathari, Waldenses, and Albigenses (which were the most peace-loving sects in medieval Christianity), confirmed the suspension of Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury. Stephen thought of becoming a Carthusian monk, but stood by helplessly as the church forced England into a civil war. King John's mercenaries defeated the barons who asked for the help of France's King Louis. Louis was excommunicated for invading England; his French forces and the barons could only hold London against John. However, both John and Innocent III died, and the English nobles were reconciled with Henry III and his regent so that Louis had to return to France. After all this folly the Charter remained, and in the reign of Edward I Parliament was developed.

http://www.san.beck.org/WP6-MagnaCharta.html

Medieval Sourcebook: Magna Carta 1215

This is another document that needs little introduction. While John claimed the royal prerogatives of his ancestors, his spiritual and temporal lords sought an efficient administration of the laws to prevent the anarchy of Stephen's reign from happening again.

John, by the grace of God, king of England, lord of Ireland, duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and count of Anjou, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, barons, justiciars, foresters, sheriffs, stewards, servants, and to all his bailiffs and liege subjects, greeting. Know that, having regard to God and for the salvation of our soul, and those of all our ancestors and heirs, and unto the honor of God and the advancement of holy church, and for the reform of our realm, by advice of our venerable fathers, Stephen archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England and cardinal of the holy Roman Church, Henry archbishop of Dublin, William of London, Peter of Winchester, Jocelyn of Bath and Glastonbury, Hugh of Lincoln, Walter of Worcester, William of Coventry, Benedict of Rochester, bishops; of master Pandulf, sub deacon and member of the household of our lord the Pope, of brother Aymeric (master of the Knights of the Temple in England), and of the illustrious men William Marshall earl of Pembroke, William earl of Salisbury, William earl of Warenne, William earl of Arundel, Alan of Galloway (constable of Scotland), Waren Fitz Gerald, Peter Fits Herbert, Hubert de Burgh (seneschal of Poitou), Hugh de Neville, Matthew Fitz Herbert, Thomas Basset, Alan Basset, Philip d'Aubigny, Robert of Roppesley, John Marshall, John Fitz Hugh, and others, our liegemen.

1. In the first place we have granted to God, and by this our present charter confirmed for us and our heirs for ever that the English church shall be free, and shall have her rights entire, and her liberties inviolate; and we will that it be thus observed; which is apparent from this that the freedom of elections, which is reckoned most important and very essential to the English church, we, of our pure and unconstrained will, did grant, and did by our charter confirm and did obtain the ratification of the same from our lord, Pope Innocent III., before the quarrel arose between us and our barons: and this we will observe, and our will is that it be observed in good faith by our heirs for ever. We have also granted to all freemen of our kingdom, for us and our heirs for ever, all the underwritten liberties, to be had and held by them and their heirs, of us and our heirs for ever.

2. If any of our earls or barons, or others holding of us in chief by military service shall have died, and at the time of his death his heir shall be of full age and owe "relief" he shall have his inheritance on payment of the ancient relief, namely the heir or heirs of an earl, 100 pounds for a whole earl's barony; the heir or heirs of a baron, 100 pounds for a whole barony; the heir or heirs of a knight, 100 shillings at most for a whole knight's fee; and whoever owes less let him give less, according to the ancient custom of fiefs.

3. If, however, the heir of any of the aforesaid has been under age and in wardship, let him have his inheritance without relief and without fine when he comes of age.

4. The guardian of the land of an heir who is thus under age, shall take from the land of the heir nothing but reasonably produce, reasonable customs, and reasonable services, and that without

destruction or waste of men or goods; and if we have committed the wardship of the lands of any such minor to the sheriff, or to any other who is responsible to us for its issues, and he has made destruction or waste of what he holds in wardship, we will take of him amends, and the land shall be committed to two lawful and discreet men of that fee, who shall be responsible for the issues to us or to him to whom we shall assign them; and if we have given or sold the wardship of any such land to anyone and he has therein made destruction or waste, he shall lose that wardship, and it shall be transferred to two lawful and discreet men of that fief, who shall be responsible to us in like manner as aforesaid.

5. The guardian, moreover, so long as he has the wardship of the land, shall keep up the houses, parks, fishponds, stanks, mills, and other things pertaining to the land, out of the issues of the same land; and he shall restore to the heir, when he has come to full age, all his land, stocked with ploughs and "waynage," according as the season of husbandry shall require, and the issues of the land can reasonably bear.

6. Heirs shall be married without disparagement, yet so that before the marriage takes place the nearest in blood to that heir shall have notice.

7. A widow, after the death of her husband, shall forthwith and without difficulty have her marriage portion and inheritance; nor shall she give anything for her dower, or for her marriage portion, or for the inheritance which her husband and she held on the day of the death of that husband; and she may remain in the house of her husband for forty days after his death, within which time her dower shall be assigned to her.

8. No widow shall be compelled to marry, so long as she prefers to live without a husband; provided always that she gives security not to marry without our consent, if she holds of us, or without the consent of the lord of whom she holds, if she holds of another.

9. Neither we nor our bailiffs shall seize any land or rent for any debt, so long as the chattels of the debtor are sufficient to repay the debt; nor shall the sureties of the debtor be distrained so long as the principal debtor is able to satisfy the debt; and if the principal debtor shall fail to pay the debt, having nothing wherewith to pay it, then the sureties shall answer for the debt; and let them have the lands and rents of the debtor, if they desire them, until they are indemnified for the debt which they have paid for him, unless the principal debtor can show proof that he is discharged thereof as against the said sureties.

10. If one who has borrowed from the Jews any sum, great or small, die before that loan can be repaid, the debt shall not bear interest while the heir is under age, of whomsoever he may hold; and if the debt fall into our hands, we will not take anything except the principal sum contained in the bond.

11. And if any one die indebted to the Jews, his wife shall have her dower and pay nothing of that debt; and if any children of the deceased are left underage, necessaries shall be provided for them in keeping with the holding of the deceased; and out of the residue the debt shall be paid, reserving, however, service due to feudal lords; in like manner let it be done touching debts due to others than Jews.

12. No scutage nor aid shall be imposed on our kingdom, unless by common counsel of our kingdom, except for ransoming our person, for making our eldest son a knight, and for once marrying our eldest daughter; and for these there shall not be levied more than a reasonable aid. In like manner it shall be done concerning aids from the city of London.

13. And the city of London shall have all its ancient liberties and free customs, as well by land as by water; furthermore, we decree and grant that all other cities, boroughs, towns, and ports shall have all their liberties and free customs.

14. And for obtaining the common counsel of the kingdom anent the assessing of an aid (except in the three cases aforesaid) or of a scutage, we will cause to be summoned the archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, and greater barons, severally by our letters; and we will moreover cause to be summoned generally, through our sheriffs and bailiffs, all others who hold of us in chief, for afixed date, namely, after the expiry of at least forty days, and at a fixed place; and in all letters of such summons we will specify the reason of the summons. And when the summons has thus been made, the business shall proceed on the day appointed, according to the counsel of such as are present, although not all who were summoned have come.

15. We will not for the future grant to any one license to take an aid from his own free tenants, except to ransom his body, to make his eldest son a knight, and once to marry his eldest daughter; and on each of these occasions there shall be levied only a reasonable aid.

16. No one shall be distrained for performance of greater service for a knight's fee, or for any other free tenement, than is due therefrom.

17. Common pleas shall not follow our court, but shall be held in some fixed place.

18. Inquests of novel disseisin, of mort d'ancester, and of darrein presentment, shall not be held elsewhere than in their own county courts and that in manner following,--We, or, if we should be out of the realm, our chief justiciar, will send two justiciars through every county four times a year, who shall, along with four knights of the county chosen by the county, hold the said as size in the county court, on the day and in the place of meeting of that court.

19. And if any of the said assizes cannot be taken on the day of the county court, let there remain of the knights and freeholders, who were present at the county court on that day, as many as may be required for the efficient making of judgments, according as the business be more or less.

20. A freeman shall not be amerced for a slight offense, except in accordance with the degree of the offense; and for a grave offense he shall be amerced in accordance with the gravity of the offense, yet saving always his "contenement;" and a merchant in the same way, saving his "merchandise;" and a villein shall be amerced in the same way, saving his "wainage"--if they have fallen into our mercy: and none of the aforesaid amercements shall be imposed except by the oath of honest men of the neighborhood.

21. Earls and barons shall not be amerced except through their peers, and only in accordance with the degree of the offense.

22. A clerk shall not be amerced in respect of his lay holding except after the manner of the others aforesaid; further, he shall not be amerced in accordance with the extent of his ecclesiastical benefice.

23. No village or individual shall be compelled to make bridges at river-banks, except those who from of old were legally bound to do so.

24. No sheriff, constable, coroners, or others of our bailiffs, shall hold pleas of our Crown.

25. All counties, hundreds, wapen takes, and trithings (except our demesn manors) shall remain at old rents, and without any additional payment.

26. If any one holding of us a lay fief shall die, and our sheriff or bailiff shall exhibit our letters patent of summons for a debt which the deceased owed to us, it shall be lawful for our sheriff or bailiff to attach and catalogue chattels of the deceased, found upon the lay fief, to the value of that debt, at the sight of law-worthy men, provided always that nothing whatever be thence removed until the debt which is evident shall be fully paid to us; and the residue shall be left to the executors to fulfil the will of the deceased; and if there be nothing due from him to us, all the chattels shall go to the deceased, saving to his wife and children their reasonable shares.

27. If any freeman shall die intestate, his chattels shall be distributed by the hands of his nearest kinsfolk and friends, under supervision of the church, saving to every one the debts which the deceased owed to him.

28. No constable or other bailiff of ours shall take corn or other provisions from any one without immediately tendering money therefor, unless he can have postponement thereof by permission of the seller.

29. No constable shall compel any knight to give money in lieu of castle-guard, when he is willing to perform it in his own person, or (if he cannot do it from any reasonable cause) then by another responsible man. Further, if we have led or sent him upon military service, he shall be relieved from guard in proportion to the time during which he has been on service because of us.

30. No sheriff or bailiff of ours, or other person, shall take the horses or carts of any freeman for transport duty, against the will of the said freeman.

31. Neither we nor our bailiffs shall take, for our castles or for any other work of ours, wood which is not ours, against the will of the owner of that wood.

32. We will not retain beyond one year and one day, the lands of those who have been convicted of felony, and the lands shall thereafter be handed over to the lords of the fiefs.

33. All kiddles for the future shall be removed altogether from Thames and Medway, and throughout all England, except upon the seashore.

34. The writ which is called praecipe shall not for the future be issued to any one, regarding any tenement whereby a freeman may lose his court.

35. Let there be one measure of wine throughout our whole realm; and one measure of ale; and one measure of corn, to wit, "the London quarter;" and one width of cloth (whether dyed, or russet, or "halberget"), to wit, two ells within the selvages; of weights also let it be as of measures.

36. Nothing in future shall be given or taken for a writ of inquisition of life or limbs, but freely it shall be granted, and never denied.

37. If any one holds of us by fee-farm, by socage, or by burgage, and holds also land of another lord by knight's service, we will not (by reason of that fee-farm, socage, or burgage) have the wardship of the heir, or of such land of his as is of the fief of that other; nor shall we have wardship of that fee-farm, socage, or burgage, unless such fee-farm owes knight's service. We will not by reason of any small serjeanty which any one may hold of us by the service of rendering to us knives, arrows, or the like, have wardship of his heir of the land which he holds of another lord by knight's service.

38. No bailiff for the future shall, upon his own unsupported complaint, put any one to his "law," without credible witnesses brought for this purpose.

39. No freeman shall be taken or imprisoned or disseised or exiled or in anyway destroyed, nor will we go upon him nor send upon him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land.

40. To no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay, right or justice.

41. All merchants shall have safe and secure exit from England, and entry to England, with the right to tarry there and to move about as well by land as by water, for buying and selling by the ancient and right customs, quit from all evil tolls, except (in time of war) such merchants as are of the land at war with us. And if such are found in our land at the beginning of the war, they shall be detained, without injury to their bodies or goods, until information be received by us, or by our chief justiciar, how the merchants of our land found in the land at war with us are treated; and if our men are safe there, the others shall be safe in our land.

42. It shall be lawful in future for any one (excepting always those imprisoned or outlawed in accordance with the law of the kingdom, and natives of any country at war with us, and merchants, who shall be treated as is above provided) to leave our kingdom and to return, safe and secure by land and water, except for a short period in time of war, on grounds of public policy--reserving always the allegiance due to us.

43. If any one holding of some escheat (such as the honor of Wallingford, Nottingham, Boulogne, Lancaster, or of other escheats which are in our hands and are baronies) shall die, his heir shall give no other relief, and perform no other service to us than he would have done to the

baron, if that barony had been in the baron's hand; and we shall hold it in the same manner in which the baron held it.

44. Men who dwell without the forest need not henceforth come before our justiciars of the forest upon a general summons, except those who are impleaded, or who have become sureties for any person or persons attached for forest offenses.

45. We will appoint as justices, constables, sheriffs, or bailiffs only such as know the law of the realm and mean to observe it well.

46. All barons who have founded abbeys, concerning which they hold charters from the kings of England, or of which they have long-continued possession, shall have the wardship of them, when vacant, as they ought to have.

47. All forests that have been made such in our time shall forthwith be disafforested; and a similar course shall be followed with regard to river-banks that have been placed "in defense" by us in our time.

48. All evil customs connected with forests and warrens, foresters and warreners, sheriffs and their officers, river-banks and their wardens, shall immediately be inquired into in each county by twelve sworn knights of the same county chosen by the honest men of the same county, and shall, within forty days of the said inquest, be utterly abolished, so as never to be restored, provided always that we previously have intimation thereof, or our justiciar, if we should not be in England.

49. We will immediately restore all hostages and charters delivered to us by Englishmen, as sureties of the peace or of faithful service.

50. We will entirely remove from their bailiwicks, the relations of Gerard Athee (so that in future they shall have no bailiwick in England); namely, Engelard of Cigogne, Peter, Guy, and Andrew of Chanceaux, Guy of Cigogne, Geofrrey of Martigny with his brothers, Philip Mark with his brothers and his nephew Geoffrey, and the whole brood of the same.

51. As soon as peace is restored, we will banish from the kingdom all foreign-born knights, cross-bowmen, serjeants, and mercenary soldiers, who have come with horses and arms to the kingdom's hurt.

52. If any one has been dispossessed or removed by us, without the legal judgment of his peers, from his lands, castles, franchises, or from his right, we will immediately restore them to him; and if a dispute arise over this, then let it be decided by the five-and-twenty barons of whom mention is made below in the clause for securing the peace. Moreover, for all those possessions, from which any one has, without the lawful judgment of his peers, been disseised or removed, by our father, King Henry, or by our brother, King Richard, and which we retain in our hand (or which are possessed by others, to whom we are bound to warrant them) we shall have respite until the usual term of crusaders; excepting those things about which a plea has been raised, or an inquest made by our order, before our taking of the cross; but as soon as we return from our

expedition (or if perchance we desist from the expedition) we will immediately grant full justice therein.

53. We shall have, moreover, the same respite and in the same manner in rendering justice concerning the disafforestation or retention of those forests which Henry our father and Richard our brother afforested, and concerning wardship of lands which are of the fief of another (namely, such wardships as we have hitherto had by reason of a fief which any one held of us by knight's service), and concerning abbeys founded on other fiefs than our own, in which the lord of the fief claims to have right; and when we have returned, or if we desist from our expedition, we will immediately grant full justice to all who complain of such things.

54. No one shall be arrested or imprisoned upon the appeal of a woman, for the death of any other than her husband.

55. All fines made with us unjustly and against the law of the land, and all amercements imposed unjustly and against the law of the land, shall be entirely remitted, or else it shall be done concerning them according to the decision of the five-and-twenty barons of whom mention is made below in the clause for securing the peace, or according to the judgment of the majority of the same, along with the aforesaid Stephen, archbishop of Canterbury, if he can be present, and such others as he may wish to bring with him for this purpose, and if he cannot be present the business shall nevertheless proceed without him, provided always that if any one or more of the aforesaid five-and-twenty barons are in a similar suit, they shall be removed as far as concerns this particular judgment, others being substituted in their places after having been selected by the rest of the same five-and-twenty for this purpose only, and after having been sworn.

56. If we have disseised or removed Welshmen from lands or liberties, or other things, without the legal judgment of their peers in England or in Wales, they shall be immediately restored to them; and if a dispute arise over this, then let it be decided in the marches by the judgment of their peers; for tenements in England according to the law of England, for tenements in Wales according to the law of Wales, and for tenements in the marches according to the law of the marches. Welshmen shall do the same to us and ours.

57. Further, for all those possessions from which any Welshman has, without the lawful judgment of his peers, been disseised or removed by King Henry our father or King Richard our brother, and which we retain in our hand (or which are possessed by others, to whom we are bound to warrant them) we shall have respite until the usual term of crusaders; excepting those things about which a plea has been raised or an inquest made by our order before we took the cross; but as soon as we return (or if perchance we desist from our expedition), we will immediately grant full justice in accordance with the laws of the Welsh and in relation to the fore said regions.

58. We will immediately give up the son of Llywelyn and all the hostages of Wales, and the charters delivered to us as security for the peace.

59. We will do toward Alexander, King of Scots, concerning the return of his sisters and his hostages, and concerning his franchises, and his right, in the same manner as we shall do toward our other barons of England, unless it ought to be otherwise according to the charters which we

hold from William his father, formerly King of Scots; and this shall be according to the judgment of his peers in our court.

60. Moreover, all these aforesaid customs and liberties, the observance of which we have granted in our kingdom as far as pertains to us toward our men, shall be observed by all of our kingdom, as well clergy as laymen, as far as pertains to them toward their men.

61. Since, moreover, for God and the amendment of our kingdom and for the better allaying of the quarrel that has arisen between us and our barons, we have granted all these concessions, desirous that they should enjoy them in complete and firm endurance for ever, we give and grant to them the underwritten security, namely, that the barons choose five-and-twenty barons of the kingdom, whomsoever they will, who shall be bound with all their might, to observe and hold, and cause to be observed, the peace and liberties we have granted and confirmed to them by this our present Charter, so that if we, or our justiciar, or our bailiffs or any one of our officers, shall in anything beat fault toward any one, or shall have broken any one of the articles of the peace or of this security, and the offense be notified to four barons of the foresaid five-and-twenty, the said four barons shall repair to us (or our justiciar, if we are out of the realm) and, laying the transgression before us, petition to have that transgression redressed without delay. And if we shall not have corrected the transgression (or, in the event of our being out of the realm, if our justiciar shall not have corrected it) within forty days, reckoning from the time it has been intimated to us (or to our justiciar, if we should be out of the realm), the four barons aforesaid shall refer that matter to the rest of the five-and-twenty barons, and those five-and-twenty barons shall, together with the community of the whole land, distrain and distress us in all possible ways, namely, by seizing our castles, lands, possessions, and in any other way they can, until redress has been obtained as they deem fit, saving harmless our own person, and the persons of our queen and children; and when redress has been obtained, they shall resume their old relations toward us. And let whoever in the country desires it, swear to obey the orders of the said five-and-twenty barons for the execution of all the aforesaid matters, and along with them, to molest us to the utmost of his power; and we publicly and freely grant leave to every one who wishes to swear, and we shall never forbid any one to swear. All those, moreover, in the land who of themselves and of their own accord are unwilling to swear to the twenty-five to help them in constraining and molesting us, we shall by our command compel the same to swear to the effect aforesaid. And if any one of the five-and-twenty barons shall have died or departed from the land, or be incapacitated in any other manner which would prevent the foresaid provisions being carried out, those of the said twenty-five barons who are left shall choose another in his place according to their own judgment, and he shall be sworn in the same way as the others. Further, in all matters, the execution of which is intrusted to these twenty-five barons, if perchance these twenty-five are present, that which the majority of those present ordain or command shall be held as fixed and established, exactly as if the whole twenty-five had concurred in this; and the said twenty-five shall swear that they will faithfully observe all that is aforesaid, and cause it to be observed with all their might. And we shall procure nothing from any one, directly or indirectly, whereby any part of these concessions and liberties might be revoked or diminished; and if any such thing has been procured, let it be void and null, and we shall never use it personally or by another.

62. And all the ill-will, hatreds, and bitterness that have arisen between us and our men, clergy and lay, from the date of the quarrel, we have completely remitted and pardoned every one. Moreover, all trespasses occasioned by the said quarrel, from Easter in the sixteenth year of our reign till the restoration of peace, we have fully remitted to all, both clergy and laymen, and completely forgiven, as far as pertains to us. And, on this head, we have caused to be made for them letters testimonial patent of the lord Stephen, archbishop of Canterbury, of the lord Henry, archbishop of Dublin, of the bishops aforesaid, and of Master Pandulf as touching this security and the concessions aforesaid.

63. Wherefore it is our will, and we firmly enjoin, that the English Church be free, and that the men in our kingdom have and hold all the aforesaid liberties, rights, and concessions, well and peaceably, freely and quietly, fully and wholly, for themselves and their heirs, of us and our heirs, in all respects and in all places for ever, as is aforesaid. An oath, moreover, has been taken, as well on our part as on the part of the barons, that all these conditions aforesaid shall be kept in good faith and without evil intent. Given under our hand--the above-named and many others being witnesses--in the meadow which is called Runnymede, between Windsor and Staines, on the fifteenth day of June, in the seventeenth year of our reign.

note

translated in Albert Beebe White and Wallce Notestein, eds., *Source Problems in English History* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1915).

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http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/mcarta.html

Surety Barons for the enforcement of the abrogated Magna Carta.
All excommunicated by Pope Innocent

- William d'Albini, *Lord of Belvoir Castle.*
- Roger Bigod, *Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk.*
- Hugh Bogod, *Heir to the Earldoms of Norfolk and Suffolk.*
- Henry de Bohun, *Earl of Hereford.*
- Richard de Clare, *Earl of Hertford.*
- Gilbert de Clare, *heir to the earldom of Hertford.*
- John FitzRobert, *Lord of Warkworth Castle.*
- Robert FitzWalter, *Lord of Dunmow Castle.*
- William de Fortibus, *Earl of Albemarle.*
- William Hardell, *Mayor of the City of London.*
- William de Huntingfield, *Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk.**
- John de Lacie, *Lord of Pontefract Castle.*
- William de Lanvallei, *Lord of Standway Castle.*
- William Malet, *Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset.*
- Geoffrey de Mandeville, *Earl of Essex and Gloucester.*
- William Marshall jr, *heir to the earldom of Pembroke.*
- Roger de Montbegon, *Lord of Hornby Castle.*
- Richard de Montfichet, *Baron.*
- William de Mowbray, *Lord of Axholme Castle.*
- Richard de Percy, *Baron.*
- Saire de Quincey, *Earl of Winchester.*
- Robert de Roos, *Lord of Hamlake Castle.*
- Geoffrey de Saye, *Baron.*
- Robert de Vere, *heir to the earldom of Oxford.*
- Eustace de Vesci, *Lord of Alnwick Castle.*

Of these 25 signatories, 16 died within 15 years

http://www.infokey.com/hall/magna.htm

Battles

Medieval Sourcebook:
William of Malmesbury, d. 1143?:

The Battle of Hastings, 1066

The courageous leaders mutually prepared for battle, each according to his national custom. The English, as we have heard, passed the night without sleep, in drinking and singing, and in the morning proceeded without delay against the enemy. All on foot, armed with battle-axes, and covering themselves in front by the juncture of their shields, they formed an impenetrable body which would assuredly have secured their safety that day had not the Normans, by a feigned flight, induced them to open their ranks, which till that time, according to their custom, had been closely compacted. King Harold himself, on foot, stood with his brothers near the standard in order that, so long as all shared equal danger, none could think of retreating. This same standard William sent, after his victory, to the pope; it was sumptuously embroidered with gold and precious stones, and represented the figure of a man fighting. On the other hand, the Normans passed the whole night in confessing their sins, and received the communion of the Lords body in the morning. Their infantry, with bows and arrows, formed the vanguard, while their cavalry, divided into wings, was placed in the rear. The duke, with serene countenance, declaring aloud that God would favor his as being the righteous side, called for his arms; and when, through the haste of his attendants, he had put on his hauberk the hind part before, he corrected the mistake with a laugh, saying "The power of my dukedom shall be turned into a kingdom." Then starting the Song of Roland, in order that the warlike example of that hero might stimulate the soldiers, and calling on God for assistance, the battle commenced on both sides, and was fought with great ardor, neither side giving ground during the greater part of the day.

Observing this, William gave a signal to his troops, that, feigning flight, they should withdraw from the field. By means of this device the solid phalanx of the English opened for the purpose of cutting down the fleeing enemy and thus brought upon itself swift destruction; for the Normans, facing about, attacked them, thus disordered, and compelled them to fly. In this manner, deceived by a stratagem, they met an honorable death in avenging their enemy; nor indeed were they at all without their own revenge, for, by frequently making a stand, they slaughtered their pursuers in heaps. Getting possession of an eminence, they drove back the Normans, who in the heat of pursuit were struggling up the slope, into the valley beneath, where, by hurling their javelins and rolling down stones on them as they stood below, the English easily destroyed them to a man. Besides, by a short passage with which they were acquainted, they avoided a deep ditch and trod underfoot such a multitude of their enemies in that place that the heaps of bodies made the hollow level with the plain. This alternating victory, first of one side and then of the other, continued so long as Harold lived to check the retreat; but when he fell, his brain pierced by an arrow, the flight of the English ceased not until night.

In the battle both leaders distinguished themselves by their bravery. Harold, not content with the functions of a general and with exhorting others, eagerly assumed himself the duties of a common soldier. He was constantly striking down the enemy at close quarters, so that no one could approach him with impunity, for straightway both horse and rider

would be felled by a single blow. So it was at long range, as I have said, that the enemy's deadly arrow brought him to his death. One of the Norman soldiers gashed his thigh with a sword, as he lay prostrate; for which shameful and cowardly action he was branded with ignominy by William and expelled from the army.

William, too, was equally ready to encourage his soldiers by his voice and by his presence, and to be the first to rush forward to attack the thickest of the foe. He was everywhere fierce and furious; he lost three choice horses, which were that day killed under him. The dauntless spirit and vigor of the intrepid general, however, still held out. Though often called back by the kind remonstrance of his bodyguard, he still persisted until approaching night crowned him with complete victory. And no doubt the hand of God so protected him that the enemy should draw no blood from his person, though they aimed so many javelins at him.

This was a fatal day to England, and melancholy havoc was wrought in our dear country during the change of its lords. For it had long adopted the manners of the Angles, which had indeed altered with the times; for in the first years of their arrival they were barbarians in their look and manner, warlike in their usages, heathens in their rights. After embracing the faith of Christ, by degrees and, in process of time, in consequence of the peace which they enjoyed, they relegated arms to a secondary place and gave their whole attention to religion. I am not speaking of the poor, the meanness of whose fortune often restrains them from overstepping the bound of justice; I omit, too, men of ecclesiastical rank, whom sometimes respect for their profession and sometimes the fear of shame suffers not to deviate from the true path; I speak of princes, who from the greatness of their power might have full liberty to indulge in pleasure. Some of these in their own country, and others at Rome, changing their habit, obtained a heavenly kingdom and a saintly intercourse. Many others during their whole lives devoted themselves in outward appearance to worldly affairs, but in order that they might exhaust their treasures on the poor or divide them amongst monasteries.

What shall I say of the multitudes of bishops, hermits, and abbots? Does not the whole island blaze with such numerous relics of its own people that you can scarcely pass a village of any consequence but you hear the name of some new saint? And of how many more has all remembrance perished through the want of records?

Nevertheless, the attention to literature and religion had gradually decreased for several years before the arrival of the Normans. The clergy, contented with a little confused learning, could scarcely stammer out the words of the sacraments; and a person who understood grammar was an object of wonder and astonishment. The monks mocked the rule of their order by fine vestments and the use of every kind of food. The nobility, given up to luxury and wantonness, went not to church in the morning after the manner of Christians, but merely, in a careless manner, heard matins and masses from a hurrying priest in their chambers, amid the blandishments of their wives. The commonalty, left unprotected, became a prey to the most powerful, who amassed fortunes, either by seizing on their property or by selling their persons into foreign countries; although it is characteristic of this people to be more inclined to reveling than to the accumulation of wealth.

Drinking in parties was a universal practice, in which occupation they passed entire nights as well as days. They consumed their whole substance in mean and despicable houses, unlike the Normans and French, who live frugally in noble and splendid mansions. The vices attendant on drunkenness, which enervate the human mind, followed; hence it came about that when they engaged William, with more rashness and precipitate fury than military skill, they doomed themselves and their country to slavery by a single, and that an easy, victory. For nothing is less effective than rashness; and what begins with violence quickly ceases or is repelled.

The English at that time wore short garments, reaching to the mid-knee; they had their hair cropped, their beards shaven, their arms laden with gold bracelets, their skin adorned with tattooed designs. They were accustomed to eat till they became surfeited, and to drink till they were sick. These latter qualities they imparted to their conquerors; as to the rest, they adopted their manners. I would not, however, had these bad propensities ascribed to the English universally; I know that many of the clergy at that day trod the path of sanctity by a blameless life; I know that many of the laity, of all ranks and conditions, in this nation were well-pleasing to God. Be injustice far from this account; the accusation does not involve the whole, indiscriminately; but as in peace the mercy of God often cherishes the bad and the good together, so, equally, does his severity sometimes include them both in captivity.

The Normans---that I may speak of them also---were at that time, and are even now, exceedingly particular in their dress and delicate in their food, but not so to excess. They are a race inured to war, and can hardly live without it; fierce in rushing against the enemy, and, where force fails of success, ready to use stratagem or to corrupt by bribery. As I have said, they live in spacious houses with economy, envy their superiors, wish to excel their equals, and plunder their subjects, though they defend them from others; they are faithful to their lords, though a slight offense alienates them. They weigh treachery by its chance of success, and change their sentiments for money. The most hospitable, however, of all nations, they esteem strangers worthy of equal honor with themselves; they also inter-marry with their vassals. They revived, by their arrival, the rule of religion which had everywhere grown lifeless in England. You might see churches rise in every village, and monasteries in the towns and cities, built after a style unknown before; you might behold the country flourishing with renovated rites; so that each wealthy man accounted that day lost to him which he had neglected to signalize by some munificent action.

Source.

From: James Harvey Robinson, ed., *Readings in European History,* 2 Vols. *(*Boston: Ginn & Co., 1904-06), Vol. I: *From the Breaking up of the Roman Empire to the Protestant Revolt*, pp. 224-229

Scanned in and modernized by Dr. Jerome S. Arkenberg, Dept. of History, Cal. State Fullerton.

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http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1066malmesbury.html

The Battle of the Standard

Date - 1138 AD
Combatants - King David I of Scotland .v. Prince Stephen of Northumbria
Setting - Northallerton, Northumbria, England
Description –

The Scots, since the reign of Malcolm Canmore (1058 - 1093) had been trying - in vain - to assert their claim on the lands known as Northumbria, in the North of England. This had been carried over to David's reign by way of duty. In 1138, David invaded England and was met by a body of Norman's at Northallerton. The Norman's standard emblem was a wagon with a mast, itself bearing religious standards.

The Scottish army numbered 26,000, but were 'ill formed'. There were 'lowlanders with long spears; men of Galloway with pikes only; men of Orkney and the Isles with their battle-axes; and Higlanders with their swords and small round shields'. Each attack they made was repelled and when a cry went up that David was slain there was further confusion.

Though baffled, David was not dead, and contrary to many other sources, it can be revealed that David was not **totally** defeated at this battle. He rallied his men and they wasted the English borders until Stephen gave up Northumbria. The rest of his reign was peaceful.

http://www.geocities.com/CollegePark/Quad/7843/battles/standard.html

Field of Battle

Lincoln 1141, England

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The battle of Lincoln is of particular interest to wargamers because it represents the classic 12th century formations favoured in pitched battles typical of the period. At Lincoln, the opposing armies were very nearly equal and what small advantage one side may have had in position, the other had in numbers.
To lift his siege of Lincoln Castle, **Empress Mathilda's** supporters arrived at King Stephen's rear after crossing a Witham River canal. The King formed for battle as the Rebels approached. The Royalists were outnumbered, but formed on higher ground. The Rebels courted disaster if things went badly for them as, both, the canal and River Witham were now behind them preventing retreat.
Both sides drew up in 3 divisions with infantry in the center and cavalry to the flanks. A band of Welsh spearmen formed in advance of center left and the King's archers were just ahead of Stephen's dismounted knights. The remainder were in standard line abreast. Little else is known about the order of battle, except for cavalry being about equal and Royalist infantry somewhat outnumbered, most likely in archer ranks.
The King's right wing cavalry disintegrated on impact with the Rebel left, but not before it put the Welsh to flight into its own cavalry ranks behind them. But the King's dismounted knights were then hemmed in by repeated attacks in flank and rear. King Stephen was captured, after which the rest surrendered. Although no more than 200 appear to have been killed in the battle itself, many more fell during the rebels' sack of Lincoln.

Notes:
This scenario is suitable for up to six players, each commanding the center, the left or the right division of the chosen side.
Opponents deploy just beyond archery range of the self bows used in this battle.
Foot Knights are elite class and Welsh spearmen are veterans. The rest are regulars except for feudal levy troops which are militia or half-trained mob.
Designations are: Light, Heavy, Infantry, Cavalry.
Troop to figure ratio is 40:1. Thus, the Royalists are about 4200 strong vs. some 4700 Welsh.
If King Stephen is killed or taken, the Royal Army surrenders.

References Used:
David Nicolle - Medieval Warfare Source Book (Brockhampton 1996)
Ian Heath - Armies of Feudal Europe 1066-1300 (WRG 1978)
George Schneider - Broadsword (FGU 1977)
. Although a fictionalized account, Sharon Kay Penman's "When Christ and His Saints Slept" (Henry Holt 1995) contains all the ramifications of this battle, written in a very engaging style. She is a recognized master of historical fiction.

http://belgate.tripod.com/belgate/id8.html

The Battle of Evesham

When August 4, 1265
Where Evesham, Herefordshire & Worcestershire
Who an alliance of rebellious barons under Simon de Montfort vs. royal forces under Prince Edward (later Edward I).

Why Montfort and his allies rebelled against what they saw as poor government and excessive spending on foreign wars by Henry III. Initial success at the Battle of Lewes gave Montfort practical control of the government, and he instituted reforms which eventually led to the English Parliamentary system of government by representation.

However, Montfort was undone by his bickering allies, and Prince Edward escaped from captivity to raise the royal standard on the Welsh Marches. Montfort, carting along the King, marched north, intending to join forces with his son at Kenilworth, near Warwick. Edward got there first, routed the younger Montfort, and surprised Simon at Evesham.
In a story which is likely apochryphal, Montfort, realizing that his army was trapped in a loop of the Severn River by a superior force, said to his aides, "Let us commend our souls to God, because our bodies are theirs". He was right.

The Battle
Montfort's already slim chances of breaking through the royal lines was made even more remote when his Welsh allies deserted before battle was joined. This left him facing an enemy with perhaps four times the number of his own troops.

Montfort's men charged uphill against the royal lines, but they never stood a chance. Edward's wings pivoted and converged on Montfort's flanks, and the fight quickly became a massacre.

Even the fleeing Welsh were cut down or drowned in the river. No quarter was given to the rebels, and the carnage was terrible. Montfort's body was badly mutilated and dispersed to different parts of the kingdom. His torso, at least, was sent to Evesham Abbey, where his tomb became a popular pilgrimage centre.

The Results
Evesham marked the end of the so-called **Baron's War**. A few futile skirmishes followed, but the result was a forgone conclusion. Henry III was restored to power and the remaining sons of Montfort eventually fled the country. Prince Edward also proved himself an able and talented military leader, a fact which his later career in Wales and Scotland certainly bears out.

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http://www.britainexpress.com/History/battles/evesham.htm

Battle of Dunbar

Date - 1296
Combatants - Guardians of Scotland .v. King Edward I of England (longshanks)
Setting - Dunbar, Scotland
Description -

King John Balliol was placed on the throne in 1292. He was a weak King, but he was a King nonetheless, something Scotland hadn't had since 1286. Edward I of England, having already conquered Wales, set his eyes on Scotland. In 1296, he marched North with an army of 30,000 infantry and 5000 cavalry. He invaded Scotland.
He first arrived at Berwick, Scotland's main trading town. He sacked the town, mercilessly killing practically the whole town's population. He then marched to Dunbar and defeated a Scots army sent to meet him. Scotland was now in Edward's hands. He marched to Scone (pro. scoon) and removed the famous 'Stone of Destiny' and removed it to Westminster Abbey, where it remained for 700 years - being returned only recently. He asserted hi domination by touring Scotland, removing relics that were special to Scotland, and subduing uprisings. Edinburgh castle was garrisoned with English troops for the first time in it's history.

http://www.geocities.com/CollegePark/Quad/7843/battles/dunbar.html

Bannockburn Battle Sequence of Events

Siege of Stirling and the pact with Mowbray

In the year 1314, after 18 years of war, Scotland north of the Forth was free. Stirling, one of the few castles still held by the English lay under Scottish siege. **Edward Bruce, the King's brother**, lacking in siege equipment, had remained their for many months in the hope of starving the English out. Sometime in the spring though, Edward, in the chivalry of the time, made a pact with the castle's governor, one Sir Philip Mowbray. It was agreed that if an English relieving force had not arrived by midsummer's eve, the castle would be surrendered to the Scots. Robert, on hearing of this was furious with his brother. So far he had relied entirely on guerrilla tactics to oust the English, and undoubtedly Edward II would send a force north, which would mean a pitched battle if Stirling was to be saved.

Edward II, on hearing this news was only too happy to oblige, deciding he could finish his father's work in one huge thrust. He amassed an army of some 40,000 men with the intention of crushing the rebellious Scots once and for all, so finally putting and end to the dispute.

His army was an enormous one, even by medieval standards. It included some 2,500 heavy cavalry, 2000 Welsh bowmen and 500 light cavalry, with the rest consisting of highly trained infantry. Edward felt openly confident that the might of his powerful army would easily overwhelm the Scots, who numbered only some 13,000. Following this army, Edward had a huge train of equipment and supplies, which included weaponry, siege engines, foods, wines, and the riches of the Knights and Barons. To watchers, the sight of a column of such splendour marching past must have been magnificent.

Edward had his army muster at Berwick-upon-Tweed. From there, some two weeks before the deadline, they crossed the border at Coldstream, and marched north to Stirling.

Randolph's encounter with Beaumont and Clifford

On the 23rd of June, midsummer's eve 1314, the army of Edward II arrived before the Bannockburn ford.

As Robert Bruce had anticipated, they had come by the old roman road, so he had set his positions accordingly, his divisions lining the road under the cover of the forest. For him to win he would need to fight the battle on his terms, which meant confining the bulk of the English army to a gap to small for them to fight at full force. He hoped then that his schiltroms* could repel the thrust of the English cavalry, keeping his lines unbroken.

For the battle site, Robert had chosen the narrow gap between the woods surrounding the Bannockburn village and those on Gillies Hill, near where the road fords the Bannock Burn. Within the woods he blocked all paths with branches and dug pits which he covered with sticks, anti-cavalry traps intended to counter an outflanking movement. Then with his men in position, he waited.

* A schiltrom was basically a large circle of men who carried huge 15 ft pikes. They were trained to march consistently in this formation with pikes outwards, forming an impenetrable wall of spears.

On the arrival of the English, Stirling's governor, Sir Philip Mowbray rode out to meet Edward. He pleaded that a force should be dispatched to relieve the castles garrison, to which Edward agreed, giving him 500 cavalry.

Mowbray knew the Scots positions would make using the road impossible, so he led the force, under Sir Clifford and Sir Beaumont along a narrow bridle path leading from the village to the castle. Within the gorge, which the path followed, the English Knights were well hidden from the Scottish positions. Luckily, just before they had managed to pass, Robert spotted them and immediately dispatched Randolph to intercept.

Randolph quickly gathered his men and charged down towards the English, blocking their path. He knew that there would be no option but to fight, as the English were 500 horse, and would be confident of breaking the Scots lines. So, as the English cavalry gathered for the charge, within the Scots schiltrom spears were grounded and muscles strained in preparation for their impact.

The first wave of cavalry hit the Scots with tremendous force. Their lines held sure though and many English Knights crashed to their deaths on the wall of spikes. The cavalry retreated, gathered and charged again, but still they could not break through. This continued for some time, each charge weakening as more knights fell, their own dead blocking their path.

Meanwhile James Douglas, concerned for Randolph's men persuaded Robert to let him take a small division of reinforcements down to the battle. On arrival though he was greeted by a surprise; it was not the Scots who were failing, but the English, who had given up charging and had now resorted to throwing their hand weapons at the Scots, though to little effect. So Douglas, seeing that it was Randolph's fight, and almost won, held his men and watched as his friend finished the English himself.

The English cavalry began again to retreat, and gathered a small distance from the Scots schiltrom. Suddenly the Scots, confident now of victory, did something before unheard of in medieval warfare, they charged the cavalry. For the English knights this was the last straw. Tired and disorientated, they now found themselves swarmed by the Scottish infantry and in a blind panic began to scatter. Of the 500 English Knights who set out to Stirling, only around 400 struggled back to the camp. As for Scots loses, Randolph reported only 6.

This victory, though small in the fact that they were still outnumbered 3 to 1, elated the Scots. Although they knew the worst maybe still to come, their victory would not only demoralise the English, but prove undoubtedly that a well disciplined schiltrom was capable of repelling heavy cavalry.

James and Randolph returned, taking up their positions again within the Scots lines. On their arrival however, they were to be greeted with the news that Randolph's men were not the only ones to have seen some action. There had also been some skirmishing on the battle front, where The Bruce's division were in position. These skirmishes had been sparked by an incident which was undoubtedly the tensest moment of the entire campaign for The Bruce's men, but with which any Scot with a knowledge of the King remembers with pride.

Encounter of Bruce and De Bohun

The main bulk of the English van had crossed the Bannock Burn and taken up position facing The Bruce's division. A young English Knight, one Henry De Bohun, spotted a lone figure riding back and forth along the Scots lines. Moving closer, he noticed that the man carried no crest upon his helmet, but a crown. Seeing that it was none other than King Robert himself, Bohun realised in his quest for glory, that he could end the battle in one go.

Moving from the English lines **De Bohun**, fully armoured and riding a heavy cavalry horse urged his beast to a gallop, and lowering his lance he aimed straight for the King. Robert, armed only with a battle axe and on a smaller horse, held his ground however until the last second. Just

before De Bohun hit him, Robert quickly moved his horse aside and in one blow split open both the young knight's with his battle axe.
The Scots gave a sigh of relief, many shouting about how senseless Robert had been in endangering not only his own life but the future of their cause. The King however replied only with a complaint to the fact that he had broken the shaft of his favourite axe, which rather annoyed him.
This incident obviously could have had horrific consequences if The Bruce had been killed. It would have left the Scots both leaderless and Kingless on the eve of battle, probably putting to an end their long struggle. Luckily Robert remained entirely unscathed to the great relief of his men.
That night, after further small skirmishes along the front line, the English retired and made camp upon the carse, some distance from the Scots lines. For Robert, it was a time to make some very important decisions. From past experience, he knew that because of the small size of his army, to beat the English he needed to fight them at his chosen location, preferably a place where they were confined to a small front. Robert had originally intended this to be between the forest of Gillies Hill and the Bannock Burn gorge. Now that Edward's army had camped upon the carse, the battle would inevitably have to take place on the flat field that stretched down from the road towards it. This meant that the battle front was to be much larger than Robert would have liked. The only benefit to this site was the small gorge that lay between the carse and the field. Although it was not particularly deep, it's sides were steep and it would be a slow process for the large English army to cross safely. Robert knew that if he could attack the English as they were still crossing, he might be able to drive them back upon their own men still trying to cross the gorge. This would cause confusion and disorganization among them, exactly what he needed.
Later that evening a young Scottish Knight, deserting the English side, rode into Robert's camp and asked to speak to the King, telling him he wanted to change his allegiance. The King, always happy for new recruits, especially from his enemy, accepted and let the man pay homage. With him the knight also brought news, apparently the English had been very demoralised by the events of the day and many were unhappy with young King Edward's command. For Robert, this was the final factor in his decision. He spent the evening discussing the matter with each division in turn, and asked their opinions. For him, unlike many commanders of the time, the thoughts of his men were as important as his own. And to the main question, would they follow him and fight, he was given a resounding "yes".

Main Battle - 24th June 1314

At first light the Scots were already in position. Looking down towards the carse they could see the English hurriedly preparing for battle, with the first of their cavalry making it's way across the gorge. Robert gave one final address to his troops before they were given their church blessing. Edward, watching the Scots kneeling in prayer, laughed aloud believing they begged for his mercy. A wiser man then told him; yes, they did beg , but not to him.
Soon the main bulk of the English van had crossed the gorge and had formed up in preparation for the charge. Robert then ordered his troops to move out from the trees, and gathering into their schiltroms, they took up position to face the onslaught. Within the English cavalry their was confusion however, with two commanders arguing over who was to lead the charge. One called for an advance and rode forward, but was only followed by a few, the rest of the cavalry, momentarily confused struggled to follow.

The impact as the English horse hit the schiltroms was tremendous, but the Scots held. Many of the English knights, charging unorganized, were killed outright on the Scottish pikes, others fell or were dragged from their horses to be crushed by their own men or killed by the Scots.
The lack of English organization was now becoming horribly apparent to them. Most of their archers were now across the gorge and in a panic someone had given the order to fire. Unfortunately for them, not only were they hitting the Scots but much of their own retreating cavalry. The archers were bad news for the Scots, who no longer had the cover of the trees, but Robert had planned for this. As soon as he gave the signal, Keith the Marischal of Scotland, commanding some 500 mounted infantry charged out of the woods and routed the archers from the field.
With the cavalry retreating, and the archers scattered, there was huge confusion among the English ranks. The Scots, seeing this lifted their pikes and slowly advanced, in perfect formation, driving their struggling enemy back towards the gorge. What remained of the English cavalry continued to retreat and charge, each time being beaten back by the wall of Scottish spikes. With the Scots forcing those who had reached the field further and further back towards the gorge, and at the same time the main bulk of the English infantry still trying to cross, those who were retreating were blocking those advancing. The English army's fate was sealed.
The schiltroms pressed on, pushing more and more men into the horrific crush the gorge had become. Horses and men tumbled down the sides tripping over each other until, as one witness described it: "bodies lay so thick a man could cross the burn dry-shod".
Soon almost all of the English, most not even given a chance to fight, were scattering. Many drowned as they tried to cross the Forth, others were killed or crushed by their own companions in the mad race to escape. Those still left fighting on the battlefield were few and Robert, seeing the victory was theirs gave the order to break up and give chase.
Sir James Douglas, spotting the escape of Edward was given permission by Robert to follow. The young King quickly reached the gates of Stirling but no matter how much he pleaded, the governor Philip Mowbray refused to let him in. Mowbray argued that he must hold his part of the pact as the Scots had been true to theirs. With Douglas on his tail, Edward had little time to argue so gave up and set off south. After many days of hard riding, made worse by Douglas happily picking off any stragglers of the Kings party, he eventually made it to Dunbar Castle. From there a ship took the English king, thoroughly beaten and humiliated, back south to England.
For the Scots, the battle was undeniably one of the greatest in history. Their King, who for 18 years had fought for a cause once thought impossible, had led them to victory. Edward may have had the military might of all England behind him, but in the end it was no match for an army of freedom fighters distinctly lacking in blue blood.

Bannockburn Battle Site Map | Bannockburn Battle page
MacBRAVEHEART homepage

http://www.braveheart.co.uk/macbrave/history/bruce/banseq.htm

The Hundred Years' War (1336-1352)
Introduction to Medieval History



CAUSES

The Battle for Flanders

Flanders had grown to be the industrial center of northern Europe and had become extremely wealthy through its cloth manufacture. It could not produce enough wool to satisfy its market and imported fine fleece from England. England depended upon this trade for its foreign exchange. During the 1200's, the upper-class English had adopted Norman fashions and switched from beer to wine.

(Note that beer and wine were very important elements in the medieval diet. Both contain vitamin and yeast complexes that the medieval diet, especially during the winter, did not provide. Besides, the preservation of food was a difficult matter in that era, and the alcohol in beer and wine represented a large number of calories stored in an inexpensive and effective fashion. People did get drunk during the middle ages, but most could not afford to do so. Beer and wine were valued as food sources and were priced accordingly)

The problem was that England could not grow grapes to produce the wine that many of the English now favored and had to import it. A triangular trade arose in which English fleece was exchanged for Flemish cloth, which was then taken to southern France and exchanged for wine, which was then shipped into England and Ireland, primarily through the ports of Dublin, Bristol, and London.

But the counts of Flanders had been vassals of the king of France, and the French tried to regain control of the region in order to control its wealth. The English could not permit this, since it would mean that the French monarch would control their main source of foreign exchange. A civil war soon broke out in Flanders, with the English supporting the manufacturing middle class and the French supporting the land-owning nobility.

The Struggle for Control of France

The English king controlled much of France, particularly in the fertile South. These lands had come under control of the English when Eleanor of Aquitaine, heiress to the region, had married Henry II of England in the mid-12th century. There was constant bickering along the French-English frontier, and the French kings always had to fear an English invasion from the South. Between Flanders in the North and the English in the South, they were caught in a "nutcracker".

The "Auld Alliance"

The French responded by creating their own "nutcracker." They allied with the Scots in an arrangement that persisted well into the 18th century. Thus the English faced the French from the south and the Scots from the north.

The Battle for the Channel and North Sea

The French nutcracker would only work if the French could invade England across the English Channel. (The French call it "La Manche," "The Sleeve," for what reason I do not know.) Besides, England could support their Flemish allies only if they could send aid across the North Sea, and, moreover, English trade was dependent upon the free flow of naval traffic through the Channel. Consequently, the French continually tried to gain the upper hand at sea, and the English constantly resisted them. Both sides commissioned what would have been pirates if they had not been operating with royal permission to prey upon each other's shipping, and there were frequent naval clashes in those constricted waters.

The Dynastic Conflict

The last son of King Philip IV (The Fair) died in 1328, and the direct male line of the **Capetians** finally ended after almost 350 years. Philip had had a daughter, however. This daughter, Isabelle, had married King Edward II of England, and King Edward III was their son. He was therefore Philip's grandson and successor in a direct line through Philip's daughter. The French could not

tolerate the idea that Edward might become King of France, and French lawyers brought up some old Frankish laws, the so-called Salic Law, which stated that property (including the throne) could not descend through a female. The French then gave the crown to Philip of Valois, a nephew of Philip IV. Nevertheless, Edward III had a valid claim to the throne of France if he wished to pursue it.

An Aggressive Spirit in England

Although France was the most populous country in Western Europe (20 million inhabitants to England's 4-5 million) and also the wealthiest, England had a strong central government, many veterans of hard fighting on England's Welsh and Scottish borders (as well as in Ireland), a thriving economy, and a popular king. Edward was disposed to fight France, and his subjects were more than ready to support their young (only 18 years old at the time) king.

THE COURSE OF THE WAR

War broke out in earnest in 1340. The French had assembled a great fleet to support an army with which they intended to crush all resistance in Flanders. When the ships had anchored in a dense pack at Sluys in modern Netherlands, the English attacked and destroyed it with fire ships and victory in a battle fought across the anchored ships, almost like a land battle on a wooden battlefield. The English now had control of the Channel and North Sea. They were safe from French invasion, could attack France at will, and could expect that the war would be fought on French soil and thus at French expense. Edward invaded northern France in 1345. The Black Death had arrived, and his army was weakened by sickness. As the English force tried to make its way safely to fortified Channel port, the French attempted to force them into a battle. The English were finally pinned against the coast by a much superior French army at a place called **Crecy** (pronounced "cressie"). Edward's army was a combined force: archers, pikemen, light infantry, and cavalry; the French, by contrast, clung to their old-fashioned feudal cavalry. The English had archers using the longbow, a weapon with great penetrating power that could sometimes kill armored knights, and often the horses on which they rode. The battle was a disaster for the French. The English took up position on the crest of a hill, and the French cavalry tried to ride up the slope to get at their opponents. The long climb up soggy ground tired and slowed the French horses, giving the English archers and foot soldiers ample opportunity to wreak havoc in the French ranks. Those few French who reached the crest of the hill found themselves faced with rude, but effective, barriers, and, as they tried to withdraw, they were attacked by the small but fresh English force of mounted knights.

Nevertheless, facing much the same battlefield situation some ten years later, the French employed the same tactics they had used at Crecy, with the same dismal result, at the battle of Poiters (1356). The French king and many nobles were captured, and many, many others were killed. Old fashioned feudal warfare, in which knights fought for glory, was ended. The first phase of the war ended with a treaty in 1360, but France continued to suffer. The English had employed mercenaries who, once they were no longer paid, lived off the country by theft and plunder. Most French peasants would have found it difficult to distinguish between war and this sort of peace.

END OF THE CONFLICT

As the war dragged on, the English were slowly forced back. They had less French land to support their war effort as they did so, and the war became more expensive for them. This caused conflicts at home, such as the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 and the beginning of civil wars.

Henry V. With Henry's death in 1422, the war resumed.

Joan of Arc, a peasant girl who led the French armies to victory over the English until she was captured and burned by the English as a witch. The French now had a greater unity, and the French king was able to field massive armies on much the same model as the British. In addition, however, the French government began to appreciate the "modern" style of warfare, and new military commanders, such as Bertran du Guesclin, began to use guerilla and "small war" tactics of fighting.

The war dragged on for many years. In fact, it was not until 1565 that the English were forced out of **Calais**, their last foothold in continental France, and they still hold the Channel Islands, the last remnant of England's medieval empire in France.



1382


EUROPE
DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE
HUNDRED YEARS WAR, THE
SCANDANAVIAN UNION OF KALMAR,
AND THE FINAL DECAY OF THE
BYZANTINE EMPIRE
1430 A.D.
ICELAND
(NORWAY)
LAPPS
NOVGOROD
NORWAY
SWEDEN
VASSAL STATES OF
THE GOLDEN HORDE
MOSCOVY
SCOTLAND
UNION OF KALMAR
IRELAND
DENMARK
TEUTONIC ORDER
RYAZAN
WALES
ENGLAND
LITHUANIA
HOLY
ROMAN EMPIRE
(SMALL STATES)
DUKE OF
BURGANDY
POLAND
KHANATE OF THE
GOLDEN HORDE
BOHEMIA
MOLDAVIA
FRANCE
AUSTRIA
HUNGARY
GENOVESE
POSSESSIONS
NAVARRE
VENICE
WALLACHIA
(HUNGARIAN
VASSAL)
OTTOMAN
VASSALS
PORTUGAL
GENOA
PAPAL
STATES
CASTILE
ARAGON
EMPIRE OF
TREBIZOND
GEORGIA
BYZANTIUM
OTTOMAN EMPIRE
SMALL STATES
NAPLES
AK KOYUNLU
SARDINIA
GRANADA
ATHENS
KARAMAN
SICILY
SMALL
STATES
KNIGHTS OF
ST. JOHN
CYPRUS
ZAYYANIDS
HAFSIDS
MARINIDS
VENETIAN
POSSESSIONS
BEDOUIN
TRIBES
MAMELUKE
EMPIRE
BERBER TRIBES
LYBIAN
TRIBES

1430



1470

http://www.ku.edu/kansas/medieval/108/lectures/hundred_years_war.html

The Battle of Neville's Cross

The Background

The Battle of Neville's Cross had its origins in the Hundred Years War between England and France which lasted from 1338 to 1453. On 26 August 1346, an English army commanded jointly by King Edward III and his son, **Edward the Black Prince**, defeated the French army at the Battle of Crécy. It has been written that, at the end of this battle:

"The flower of the French aristocracy lay dead upon the field."

In desperation, King Philip VI of France appealed to his friend and ally King David II of Scotland to create a diversion by launching an attack on Northern England. In response to this plea - and, perhaps, in the hope of gaining a reputation equal to that of his father, Robert the Bruce - King David personally led a Scots army of over 12,000 men southwards. His immediate intention was to capture the mighty fortress stronghold of Durham. In reply, a small English army of some 5,000 men under the overall command of the Archbishop of York hurriedly moved northwards from Yorkshire to reinforce Durham and to confront the Scots army.
It is said that, as David approached Durham, he had a dream in which he was warned not to invade St Cuthbert's holy territory. Ignoring this warning, David continued his advance. The night before the battle St Cuthbert appeared to Prior Fossor of Durham. The saint instructed the prior to take the corporax cloth which had been found in his coffin in 1104, attach it to a spear and carry it as a banner to the battlefield. Early the following day, the Prior, in obedience to the saint's wishes and accompanied by a number of his monks, took this sacred relic to a site within a few hundred yards of the two opposing armies. There, he and the monks knelt and prayed while the battle raged around them.

The Battle

On the morning of 17 October 1346, the Scots army was arrayed in three divisions on a high but narrow ridge just to the west of the City. Tantalisingly close to the east of them, they could see the great prize - Durham's Cathedral and Castle. However, to the south they could also see the English army drawn up in four divisions, three to the front and one held back in reserve. Confident of victory not least because of superiority of numbers, David ordered his soldiers to advance towards the English lines. Almost immediately, the Scots division under Sir William Douglas on the west flank found that to attack the English division in front of it involved descending into a steep-sided valley and then clambering up the other side. This first misfortune was soon greatly magnified by a second. The English division led by Sir Thomas Rokeby that overlooked the struggling Scots soldiers on the west flank happened to contain a strong force of English archers. At this time, the English longbow, with its great range and the power to pierce armour, was one of the most terrifying weapons to be found on any medieval battlefield. Almost at once, this advancing division - a third of the Scots army - started to disintegrate as wave upon wave of deadly arrows flew down from above. Soon, Douglas's division began a headlong retreat in a state of complete confusion.
On the east flank, by contrast, the Scots division under Lord Robert Stewart, the heir to the Scots throne, was having considerable success. It managed to roll back the division of the English army led by **Lords Neville and Percy** that stood in its way. However, in doing so, it exposed its own flank to the English reserve. Finding itself now under attack on two sides, this Scots

division too began to fall back. As the Scots divisions on either flank retreated, the central division commanded by King David himself was left exposed to attack on three sides. It was thus in an increasingly desperate position. In due course, David himself was wounded and his standard bearer killed. At this point, the central division of the Scots army also broke and ran.

The aftermath

King David managed to escape. However, legend has it that while hiding under a bridge over the nearby River Browney, David's reflection was spotted in the water by a detachment of English soldiers which was out searching for him. David was then captured by John Copeland - the leader of the detachment. Later, King Edward III ordered Copeland to bring the Scots king to Calais and hand him over. Edward then rewarded Copeland with a knighthood and a handsome annuity. King David was brought back to England and imprisoned in the Tower of London. After eleven years in the Tower, he was released in return for a ransom of 100,000 marks - worth about £15 million today!

The Battle of Neville's Cross derives its name from a stone cross that Lord Neville paid to have erected on the battlefield to commemorate this remarkable victory. The fate of the unfortunate King David II of Scotland is immortalised in Shakespeare's play King Henry V. In Act 1 Scene 3, Henry says to the Archbishop of Canterbury:

"For you shall read that my great-grandfather
Never went with his forces into France
But that the Scot on his unfurnish'd kingdom
Came pouring, like the tide into a breach,
With ample and brim fullness of his force;
Galling the gleaned land with hot essays,
Girding with grievous siege castles and towns;
That England, being empty of defence,
Hath shook and trembled at the ill neighbourhood."

But the Archbishop replies:

"She hath been then more fear'd than harm'd my liege;
For hear her but exampled by herself:
When all her chivalry hath been in France,
And she a mourning widow of her nobles,
She hath herself not only well defended,
But taken, and impounded as a stray,
The king of Scots; whom she did send to France,
To fill King Edward's fame with prisoner kings…"

Some years after the dissolution of the Monastery at Durham, St Cuthbert's corporax cloth which Prior Fosser had made into a banner, was destroyed. According to *The Rites of Durham*, the banner:

"...fell into the possession of one Dean Whittingham whose wife, called Katherine, being a French woman (as is most credibly reported by eye-witnesses), did most injuriously burn the same in her fire, to the open contempt and disgrace of all ancient and goodly relics."

The Battle of Humbleton Hill

North west of Wooler, a road leads us into the valley of Glendale, passing the site of the Battle of Humbleton Hill. Here on the 13th August 1402, **Harry `Hotspur' Percy** defeated and captured Earl Archibold Douglas, who was returning to Scotland with an army of ten thousand men, following a raid on Northumberland. The Scots had taken up position on the slopes of the hill, but were heavily defeated by the superior skills of the English archers.
Hotspur was not given much credit for his victory by King Henry IV, who arrogantly claimed the ransom money for the release of the Scottish prisoners. This snub infuriated Percy and it was probably this that eventually led the great Northumbrian warrior into rebellion against the King. A rebellion that ultimately resulted in Hotspur's death at the **Battle of Shrewsbury** in 1403.

http://www.thenortheast.fsnet.co.uk/AlnwickandWooler.htm

A Brief Account of the Battle of Shrewsbury 1403

The Battle of Shrewsbury, fought on July 21st, 1403 between an army led by the **Lancastrian King, Henry IV** and a rebel army led by members of the Percy family from Northumberland, is principally remembered today by many as the climax of Shakespeare's play, Henry IV part 1. The Percy forces, mostly raised from their estates in Cheshire, were believed to be aiming to join forces with a Welsh rebel force led by Owain Glyn Dwr. Shrewsbury was a principal town on the route taken by the Percy forces and was the major crossing point over the river Severn as well as a potential supply base. The royal army had to take and defend the site urgently before the Percies and Glyn Dwr could join up. Our knowledge of the battle, the battlefield and the armies is less than complete and even contemporary estimates of the numbers involved or of those slain are very much open to debate.

A curious feature of the battle is that only a few years earlier it was the Percy family who had helped the King take the throne from Richard II. The Percy strongholds of the northern borders had not only made them skilled in warfare but also made them sure of their own rights, and they took grave offence when lands in Cumbria which they felt were their reward for helping the King were granted to a rival.

Early in July 1403, Sir Henry Percy rode south to his Cheshire lands with about 200 men, intending to raise a large force, including numbers of Welsh archers. By July 12th, the King was en route to face the threat when he heard whilst at Nottingham of the Percy forces actions. He immediately turned via Burton on Trent and Lichfield preparing to take the field wherever it became necessary. The Percy forces were somewhat deflated when the hoped for Welsh support failed to materialise and only physical and moral pressure induced many of them to stay with the army.

Both armies arrived in the vicinity of Shrewsbury from opposite directions a day or so before the battle. The Percy forces encamped around Berwick to the north west of the town., whilst the King's forces lay in wait to the north east around Haughmond. During the night of the 20th, the royal forces began the crossing of the Severn at Uffington and took the field below Haughmond Abbey. This gave them the wider ground on which their superior numbers could be brought to best use. The Percy army was forced to take the field on unfavourable ground and although the Percy's had greater military experience than the King, many of their troops did not. Numbers given for the combatants range from 60,000 - 14,000 Royalists and 20,000 - 5,000 rebels.

For some hours on the morning of the 21st, the two armies faced each other out of arrowshot whilst negotiations took place to try to resolve the position. Eventually, the King seems to have decided that no solution would be reached since the Percies were either too determined in their stance or because they were seeking to bring in surprise reinforcements. The order to advance was given.

Both vanguards found themselves subject to such a bombardment of arrows that many were killed within minutes. Once the hand to hand fighting had begun, the royal forces proved superior and a rash charge from the Percy force led them into disarray and destruction. When the cry went up that **Harry Percy (Hotspur)** had fallen, resistance crumbled and the slaughter began. Chroniclers of the day recorded that such a slaughter had never been seen or read about in Christian times. Thousands fell.

Both sides suffered tremendous casualties, many as the result of the dramatic impact of the use of the English longbow, whose archers were reputed to be able to fire 12 arrows a minute into

the enemy ranks - as there were several thousand archers in each force, the prospect is awe inspiring.
Over 300 knights of the realm perished or died of their wounds, up to 20,000 men fell on the field and many thousands succumbed to their injuries over the ensuing weeks. Many of the bodies were gathered for decent burial by relatives or kinsmen but it is reputed that some 1500 bodies were buried in a great charnel somewhere on the site of the battle. Hotspur was initially buried at Whitchurch, Shropshire, but the King ordered him disinterred and displayed to prove he was truly dead. His body was set up in Shrewsbury impaled on a spear between two millstones and was later quartered and put on show in the four corners of the country. In November they were returned to his widow who had them buried in the Percy chapel of Beverly Minster.
In 1406, Sir Roger Hussey, whose manor lay close by erected a chantry chapel and college of priests on the battlefield to pray for the fallen. The church of St Mary Magdalen survives to this day as a lasting memorial to this critical moment in English and international history and warfare.

http://www.skcldv.demon.co.uk/shrewsb1.htm

The Battle of Bosworth

22 August, 1485

Principal Commanders: Richard III of Gloucester (York), Norfolk (York), Northumberland (York), Stanley (York, then Tudor), Henry Tudor (Tudor), Oxford (Tudor)

Edward IV died in 1485. His son, Edward V, was only twelve years old, so Edward IV had designated his brother Richard as Protector. Richard had Edward's two sons taken to the Tower of London, where they vanished, so Richard was proclaimed king as Richard III. It is not known what actually happened to the boys, but most likely they were killed. The mystery remains as to who killed them, and if it was done on Richard's orders.

Richard had many enemies, and on 7 August, Henry Tudor landed near Milford Haven with about 2,000 French mercenaries and a handful of Lancastrian lords and knights. He gathered reinforcements as he marched through Wales, then through Shrewsbury, Stafford and Atherstone. Richard was at Nottingham, and moved from there to Leicester on 19 August, and by 21 August the two armies were facing each other about two and a half miles south of Market Bosworth.

Richard's army was just under 12,000 strong, but 4,000 of his troops were commanded by the Stanley brothers, whose loyalty was suspect. Henry had only 5,000 troops. During the battle Both the Stanleys changed allegiance to Henry, swinging the numerical advantage to his favour.

The battle was fought on and around Ambion Hill, close to Sutton Cheney, and lasted only two hours. Richard had the better position, but did not take advantage by attacking Oxford while he was still deploying his troops. This allowed Oxford to launch the first attack and the Duke of Norfolk, who was commanding Richard's forward battle division, was soon killed. For the first hour, the fighting was evenly matched, but Richard lost the battle through the treachery of the Stanleys, who deserted his cause. Even more damaging was of the Earl of Northumberland's failure to bring Richard's reserves into action when he saw the Stanleys go over to the enemy.

Richard made a last attempt to win victory by directly attacking Henry with is personal guard, and almost succeeded, having cut down Henry's standard bearer. Richard's gamble failed, and he was struck down. The battle ended because his followers had no other definite leader. Richard was the last king of England to die on the battlefield. His death effectively ended the Wars of the Roses, and Henry VII started a new dynasty, the Tudo

http://www.pomian.demon.co.uk/bosworth.htm

Castles

Alnwick Castle

There has been a castle of some sort on the site since the 11th century, when the Norman Gilbert Tyson (de Tesson), William the Conqueror's standard-bearer, acquired the property. It is likely that Tyson erected an earth and timber fortification on the site, however, nothing survives to prove this. Several key events took place at Alnwick or in the immediate area during Tyson's tenure. In 1093, the king of Scotland, Malcolm Canmore, was killed just a mile away from the castle by Robert Mowbray, the Earl of Northumberland, and the Scottish army pushed back northwards. Two years later, Tyson joined Mowbray's unsuccessful rebellion against the English king, William Rufus, and was forced to give up his possessions at Alnwick. Ownership of Alnwick passed to Yvo de Vescy the following year, and Vescy started the first building program at the site.

Vescy's daughter and heir, Beatrix, married Eustace Fitzjohn, and after Vescy's death in 1134, Eustace was created Baron of Alnwick and received rights to the castle. Fitzjohn played an active role in the politics of the day, siding with the Empress Matilda in her attempt to gain the monarchy from Stephen and joining David I's rebellion against the king. David I, the king of Scotland, eventually forced Eustace Fitzjohn to turn over the castle at Alnwick in 1138, but later that year, after the rebels were defeated, Fitzjohn made peace with Stephen and regained his property at Alnwick. Eustace managed to complete the castle's construction, which was much the same design as we see today, and died in Wales in 1157.

De Vescy descendants continued to be controversial in their loyalties to their monarch. In 1172 and again in 1174, Alnwick Castle was besieged by the Scottish king William the Lion, both times successfully defended by a garrison led by William de Vescy. On the second occasion, King William's troops were surprised by English forces, who pounced upon them in the fog and captured the Lion. By 1184, William de Vescy died, and the castle passed to his son, another Eustace (who, ironically, married the Lion's daughter). Upon the accession of King John to the English throne in 1199, troubles recurred with the Scots. William the Lion laid claim to Northumberland, a demand which John refused. For the next 14 years the issue remained in limbo. John visited Alnwick Castle twice during that time, endeavoring to settle the Scottish king's demands. Even though a treaty was signed by Scotland's then-prince Alexander, who also paid homage to John, little changed.

Eustace de Vescy remained an adversary of King John's and during the barons' rebellion in 1212, Eustace was one of the leaders. Eustace fled to the support of the Scots, and in retaliation, John ordered the destruction of Alnwick Castle. Fortunately, his orders were never carried out. Eventually, Eustace de Vescy reconciled with King John, and regained his estate in Northumberland. However, in 1215, the Baron of Alnwick once again turned against his king, joined the great confederation of the barons, and also joined forces with King Alexander of Scotland in his invasion of Northumberland. Now Alnwick was burned by John's army. The following year saw another rebellion against the English king, and Eustace de Vescy was killed while besieging Barnard Castle.

For the next four decades, Alnwick Castle existed in a state of relative quiet. However, by the mid-1260's troubles began anew, as the Vescy heir, John, supported Simon de Montfort in his attempt to overthrow King Henry III, and was wounded and captured in the Battle of Evesham in 1265 and forced to relinquish his property at Alnwick. After his release, John de Vescy fought to regain his castle, but Prince Edward, an accomplished warrior, had no trouble defeating the former baron. Surprisingly, Vescy was again pardoned by the monarchy, and after paying a fine, regained his castle. Upon his death in 1288, Alnwick Castle passed to Vescy's brother, William. And during his baronetcy, Alnwick Castle remained the focal point of ongoing conflict between Scotland and England, culminating in the unsuccessful attack in 1297 by William ("Braveheart") Wallace. In the same year, William de Vescy died leaving no legitimate heir, and the castle was placed in the care of the Bishop of Durham. In 1309, the bishop sold the castle and accompanying estates to Henry Percy. Alnwick Castle now passed into its most notorious, and dramatic, period.

One of the most powerful families in England, the Percy legacy has been chronicled by Shakespeare and others. Their history is one of tumult and intrigue, conflict with their monarch as well as the Scots. Henry, the 1st Lord Percy of Alnwick, revolted against King Edward II, lost and then regained his possessions. In 1314 Percy fought with the king at Bannockburn, was taken prisoner, and then ransomed back by the English. As owner of Alnwick Castle, Henry Percy made extensive repairs to the structure and modified its design, much of which remains in fine condition to this day.

Upon the **1st Lord Percy's** death in 1315, his son, another Henry (also the name of the next seven Percy lords!), succeeded to the title. While most of his time was spent fighting on the Continent, the **2nd Lord Percy** did upgrade his castle at Alnwick. He died in 1352 at the castle. His son, the **3rd Lord Henry**, also was an active warrior, and participated in the perpetual struggles with the Scots and in conflicts with France. This Henry died in 1368.

The next **Henry, 4th Lord Percy and 1st Earl of Northumberland**, is probably the best known and most infamous of all the lords of Northumberland. A skilled warrior active in France in the 1350's, 1360's and 1370's, this Henry Percy was an essential player in the wars against the Scots. His son, made famous in Shakespeare's Henry IV, was Harry Hotspur, who distinguished himself at the tender age of 12 in the Battle of Otterburn. During the conflict, Hotspur led a night-time attack against the Scottish forces, and, despite his complete failure and capture, Hotspur earned a reputation (and his nickname) for his warrior-nature.

In 1399, the Earl of Northumberland and his son were accused of treason against their king, Richard II. They immediately instigated another barons' revolt and placed their favorite, Henry IV, on the English throne. But, in 1403, the Percies led their own rebellion against the king, in retaliation for the king's supposed lack of support and inappropriate lack of monetary gratitude. Hotspur was killed and his father surrendered, their supporters refusing to give up their hold on Alnwick Castle until confronted with the powers of the king's siege engine. The following year, Henry Percy was freed, and in 1405 he once again rebelled. Eventually, the garrison at Alnwick Castle surrendered, although their lord fled to Scotland. Henry Percy made one last ditch effort to bring down the English monarch, but was killed in 1409 at Bramham Moor.

Once again, a Henry Percy succeeded to the earldom of Alnwick. This Henry was a close friend of the future king, Henry V, and maintained intimate royal connections throughout his lifetime. The Scottish Wars for Independence continued to plague the English monarchy, and in 1424 Alnwick Castle was besieged and burned by the marauding Scots. Over the next 30 years, the Earl of Northumberland periodically invaded Scotland or had his castle invaded by the Scots. In 1448, Alnwick was again burned by the Scots, under the leadership of the Douglases. In 1452, the second earl sided with the Lancastrians in the Wars of the Roses, and was killed at the Battle of St. Albans in 1455.

The 3rd Earl of Northumberland also sided with the Lancastrians and continued his father's pattern of warfare against both the Scots and the Yorkists. In 1461, he valiantly fought in the **Battle of Towton**, apparently England's bloodiest ever, and was killed along with some 38,000 others. Alnwick Castle was seized by the Crown and then granted to Lord Montagu. But the Wars of the Roses had not ended, nor did Alnwick's participation. The castle was besieged twice in 1462, fell into Yorkist hands in 1463, and eventually was regained by the Earls of Northumberland in 1469, after the accession of Edward IV. Twenty years later, the fourth earl was murdered by "the Mob" for imposing an unpopular tax.

The castle continued to be active over the ensuing centuries. Some of the more significant events follow: 1) the castle was the headquarters for assembling armies to fight the Scots; 2) loss of the earldom to the Crown from 1337 to 1357, when Thomas Percy was created seventh Earl of Northumberland - he was beheaded by Queen Elizabeth in 1572 for his support of her adversary, Mary of Scotland, and the Roman Catholic Church; 3) his brother, the 8th Earl, died in the Tower of London under mysterious circumstances, having also supported the Scottish queen; 4) a cousin of the 9th Percy earl participated in the infamous Gunpowder Plot of 1605, now commemorated on Guy Fawkes Day; 5) from the mid-17th century until the 18th century, the Earls of Northumberland abandoned their castle at Alnwick, and the castle severely decayed; 6) Sir Hugh Smithson became the 1st Duke of Northumberland in 1766, and was responsible for the castle's restoration, which began in about 1755, and included the birth of the fantastic interiors. From then onward, the Northumberlands made their mark in the courts of their monarchs and the affairs of their nation. The Dukes of Northumberland continued to maintain the grandeur of their castle as well as extend the exteriors. Today, Alnwick Castle is an impressive stately home, and relics of its initial military origins are clearly visible in the basic design, battlements, and massive fortitude of the structure.



http://www.castlegate.net/CASTLES/alnwick/

The History of the Castle

Pontefract Castle has had a long and colourful history since it was first started in the years following the Norman Conquest. It was frequently at the centre of national events, acting as fortress, temporary home for lord or king, centre of local administration, prison for important prisoners and armoury up to its demolition in 1649

The first earth and timber motte and bailey castle at Pontefract was built by **Ilbert de Lacy** in the last 1080's. As reward for his services to William the Conqueror, Ilbert received vast estates in Yorkshire. He controlled these estates which formed the Honour of Pontefract from the castle he built here in a commanding position.

Over the following century the first castle was gradually rebuilt in stone for greater strength and permanence. An impressive stretch of the main bailey wall can still be seen from outside the castle north west of the Keep. Of the Great Hall which was at the centre of castle life, nothing now remains except the cellars cut out of the bedrock beneath the bailey. The other visible remains of the earliest stone buildings on the site are the foundations of the castle chapel dedicated to St. Clement, of which the chancel can still be seen. This was only the beginning of building work which was to continue throughout the castle's long history.

The power and prestige of the Lacy family was gradually extended by Ilbert de Lacy's successors. His son **Robert** acquired the Lancashire Honour of Clitheroe, and Robert's son **Henry**, who founded Kirkstall Abbey near Leeds, was a famous crusader who died in Palestine in 1177. In 1193 the castle and honour passed to **Roger de Lacy**, a junior member of the family. He was a renowned soldier and loyal supporter of King John. His son **John** married the Countess of Lincoln and thereafter the Lacy lords were known as **Earls of Lincoln**.

The last Lacy Earl of Lincoln, **Henry de Lacy** (1251 - 1311), was a prominent soldier and statesman under Edward I. His daughter and heiress, **Alice**, married **Thomas Earl of Lancaster** and it was their marriage settlement which transferred the Lacy estates to the House of Lancaster. Thomas organised opposition to Edward II and was eventually tried for treason in his castle of Pontefract, and was executed on the hill north of St. John's Priory. Some extensive additions were made to the castle in this period, and the importance of the castle was reflected in the town which was at The time one of the largest and richest towns in the West Riding.

Thomas's lands were restored to his heirs and became part of the Duchy of Lancaster when it was created in 1351. The Dukes of Lancaster became Kings of England in 1399 when **Henry Bolingbroke** forced the abdication of his cousin, Richard II. From then on Pontefract was effectively the foremost royal castle in the north of England, maintained and extended while other castles were allowed to stagnate because they no longer had a function. Major building at about this time included the Swillington Tower (1399 - 1405) and the rebuilding of the King's great kitchen (1413 onwards).

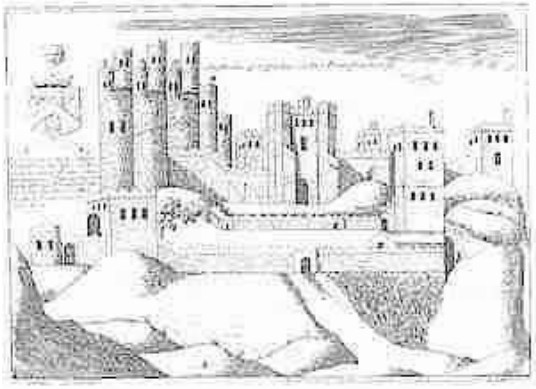
One of the uses to which the castle was put was to house important prisoners. Richard II was imprisoned and died at Pontefract. Other famous prisoners included James I of Scotland, and Charles Duc d'Orleans captured at the battle of Agincourt in 1415.
The castle continued to act as a royal base for military activities in times of unrest. During the Wars of the Roses it was used at times as a Lancastrian stronghold, as when in 1460 the Lancastrian army came from Pontefract to the battle of Wakefield. Later **Richard III, while Duke of Gloucester**, used Pontefract as one of his official residences. In 1483, during his usurpation of the throne, he had three of his political opponents executed in the castle.

During the Civil War Pontefract Castle was held for the King and underwent three sieges, during which the town suffered great damage. Siege coins were minted at the castle, which was the last remaining Royalist stronghold when it finally surrendered in 1649. On the orders of Parliament the castle was so thoroughly demolished that a true picture of its strength and grandeur in its heyday can now only be seen in the fine painting made in the early 17th Century which is on display at Pontefract Museum. Later the bailey area was used for growing liquorice. In 1882 Pontefract Corporation opened the castle as a public park after some excavation.

The castle is now a scheduled ancient monument in the guardianship of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council, although still the property of Her Majesty the Queen in right of her Duchy of Lancaster. A programme of excavation and conservation was undertaken from 1981 - 1985 by The West Yorkshire Archaeology Service for the Pontefract Castle Conservation Committee.

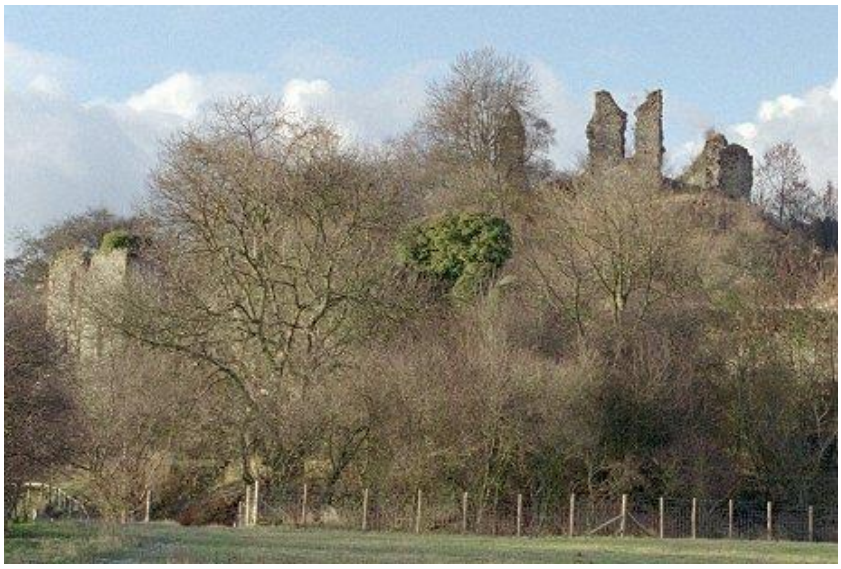
Victorian garden features and remodelling were removed to enable the public to understand the castle better and the mediaeval stonework was restored. Associated excavation concentrated on the area of the kitchen and bakehouse and on the area of the chapels and the Constable Tower. Finds reflect in particular the Civil War period of the castle's history, and include iron breastplates and helmets, spurs, powder measures and musket balls, as well as more domestic finds such as keys, knives, pewter spoons, bone combs, leather shoes and pottery.

The finds from these excavations will eventually be housed and displayed at Pontefract Museum, after research, conservation and publication. Some early finds from Pontefract Castle may be seen there. In 1988 a Visitor Centre with displays on the history of the castle was opened at the castle.



http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/community/museumsarts/poc_hist.htm

Wigmore Castle



When the Duke of York won the Battle of Mortimer's Cross in 1461, his base was probably Wigmore Castle near Leominster.
It is an ancient site. If you walk up onto the mound that rises toward the east of the castle in Moor Lane, you are standing on what is almost certainly the fortress held by Edward the Elder in 921.
Vikings attacked the Anglo-Saxon fortress and were defeated. At that time, the present village was called "Wigingamere." The name probably derived from "Wicga's Moor," or possibly the Welsh, "Gwig Maur," meaning "big wood."
Inevitably, Roman remains have been found on the site, too. The square shape of their camp can still be seen near Bury Farm, to the east, on what is the western branch of Watling Street.
In 1086, the Domesday Book records "Wigemore" Castle as being built by William FitzOsbern and held by Ralph de Mortimer:

> "Ralph de Mortimer holds WIGEMORE Castle. Earl William built it on waste land which is called MERESTUN, which Gunfrid held before 1066. 2 hides which pay tax, Ralph has 2 ploughs in lordship and 4 slaves. The Borough which is there pays £7."

The present castle is mainly 14C, but parts of the shell wall are Norman and the NE tower is 13C. **It is almost certain that it was from the castle, on February 3, 1461, that Edward, Duke of York, marched his troops to the Battle of Mortimer's Cross and claimed victory. The following year, he was crowned King Edward IV.**

http://www.users.dircon.co.uk/~mice/wigmore.html