Sarah-Beth Watkins23:49

Hi! I'm just back from a week at the Dorset Steam fair!

Elizabeth Goodman23:50

Sounds great Tim! Hi Claire!

ADMIN Tim23:50

I bet that was fun, Sarah.

Elizabeth Goodman23:50

Hi Sarah-Beth!

Claire Ridgway23:50

A steam fair sounds interesting!

Sarah-Beth Watkins23:50

Loved every minute! Amazing experience!

ADMIN Tim23:52

Five minutes until the official start time.

Elizabeth Goodman23:53

I've just poured a glass of rose wine!

Claire Ridgway 23:53

Yum!

Sarah-Beth Watkins 23:53

I have a glass of mother's ruin!

Claire Ridgway 23:54

Hi Lorna! Hi RealTudorLady!

Elizabeth Goodman 23:54

Very nice!

RealTudorLady23:54

Evening Sarah Beth, hi Elizabeth, Claire and Tim

Lorna Wanstall 23:54

hi everyone..

Elizabeth Goodman 23:54

Hi RealTudorLady!

RealTudorLady23:54

Hi Lorna

Sarah-Beth Watkins 23:54

Hi Lorna! Welcome RealTudorLady!

ADMIN Tim23:54

Hi Ral Tudor Lady, and Lorna! Thank you for joining us this evening.

Lorna Wanstall23:55

I think i'll stettle for a cupof coffee

Elizabeth Goodman23:55

Hi Lorna, are you back home?

RealTudorLady23:55

Thanks just had one with fruit cake

Lorna Wanstall23:56

Elizabeth we will set out for home about 3am, so at the moment we are getting ready to go

Rachel McNeil 23:56

Hello Everyone [©] Excited to be here

Claire Ridgway 23:56

Hi Rachel!

Lorna Wanstall23:56

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Claire Ridgway 23:56

Hi Rachel!

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Rachel McNeil23:56

Hello Everyone ²⁰ Excited to be here

Claire Ridgway 23:56

Hi Rachel!

Sarah-Beth Watkins 23:56

Hi Rachel!

Lorna Wanstall 23:56

Hello Rachel

Elizabeth Goodman23:57

Lorna, a long night for you then!

Hello Rachel

Elizabeth Goodman23:57

Lorna, a long night for you then!

Claire Ridgway23:58

Welcome to tonight's expert live chat. A huge welcome to Sarah-Beth and a big thank you to her for her wonderful talk on Margaret Tudor. Feel free to ask Sarah-Beth about her talk, her research, Margaret Tudor, her books... Anything Sarah-Beth or Margaret Tudor related! Thank you for joining us!

Lorna Wanstall23:58

We have had a wonderful relaxing holiday too, was a well needed break after the choas of the last month or so too.

Sarah-Beth Watkins 23:58

No problem! Happy to be here!

Roland Hui23:59

As an arranged marriage, did James IV and Margaret get along well?

Lorna Wanstall23:59

Sarah Beth, did Margaret and Henry get on?

Claire Ridgway23:59

Hi Roland! Hi Laurie!

Laurie Duerr23:59

Hi Claire and Sarah-Beth!

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:00

Hi Roland and Laurie!

Rachel McNeil0:01

Why do you believe Margaret has not commanded the same attention as her sister Mary? It always appeared to me that Mary outshine Margaret in terms of popularity

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:01

Lorna - I think Henry used Margaret. He wanted control of Scotland and saw her as a means to an end. When she really needed him I don' think he was there for her

Lorna Wanstall0:01

My personal opinion of Margaret and Henry were that they were very alike in temprement. They both were reckless and impetuious and had a sadistic sort of nature as well.

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:02

Rachel - I feel so sorry for Margaret. She struggled so much and you are right Mary is so much more popular

Rachel McNeil0:03

I remember reading in one of the state papers about her visiting Henry and Catherine of Aragon, and Mary being there also, and thought this family seen sounded rather idilic (whether or not that is true behind closed doors who knows).

RealTudorLady0:03

Listening to your talk Sarah Beth it was interesting how much Margaret had to struggle to get custody over her son, King James and was at times not allowed to see him and even lost the regency because the Lords didn't approve of her second marriage (not that Angus was any Prince) but she fought on. Do you think she neglected her daughter Margaret because she was so protective of her son?

Rachel McNeil0:03

scene*

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:03

Lorna - well they definitely shared Tudor blood! Margaret made decisions that we would think foolish but I think she did everything for her son. She was so focused on James

Laurie Duerr0:04

It must have been so hard for her to be caught between her brother and her husband, and then having her husband killed by the English army...

Lorna Wanstall 0:04

Rachel Both Margeret and Mary were really pawns in the great game of marital chess, I kind of have the opinion if Henry could of he would have married Margaret to the French king and perhaps married Mary into the Spanish royal line.

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:04

Rachel - they did all meet up and oh to be a fly on the wall!

Rachel McNeil0:05

Laurie I agree, I think it must have been hard for Royal women who had to go against their own family for the sake of their husbands

Claire Ridgway0:05

And to have your sister-in-law glorying in your husband's death. Nasty.

Sarah-Beth Watkins 0:05

Margaret was caught between England, France and Scotland and really struggled to negotiate it all keeping her son in the forefront of all her decisions

Claire Ridgway0:06

So what actually happened with James IV's body, seeing as he'd been excommunicated?

Rachel McNeil 0:06

What first drew you to Margaret as a subject matter?

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:06

Margaret seemed to be happy with her first husband James but was strangely silent after his death - as in didn't ask for his body or even go to a church service for him

Lorna Wanstall0:07

Sadly Margaret didn't really hav much of a say in James's life once her 2nd marriage came out

A happy marriage but perhaps not a fully loving one. It wasn't uncommon at the time I suppose.

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:08

Poor James ended up in England forgotten in a monastery in Sheen and terribly his skull was found being kicked around by a group of boys. That was interred in a church in London but his body is now under a golf course and I think there is a group trying to remedy that

Elizabeth Goodman0:08

I can't imagine sending one of my daughters off abroad to marry a virtual stranger, not knowing if you would ever see them again!

Claire Ridgway0:08

Thank you!

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:08

Rachel - I think women's history need to be explored more. They are much harder to research but their stories need to be told

Rachel McNeil0:09

I agree with you Sarah. It provides fascinating reading

Lorna Wanstall0:09

Elizabeth, such was the life of princesses. Poor KOA was heartbroken to leave spain, but she knew her duty and destiny lay in England

Sarah-Beth Watkins 0:10

Especially their arranged marriages - how many were really happy? Margaret certainly had her probelms

Laurie Duerr0:10

So what do you think attracted her to Angus then? Being as brash as he was?

Claire Ridgway 0:11

I found it touching that Henry VII gave Margaret a book of hours when she left. To have to say goodbye to your 13-year-old daughter like that, wow! Different times though.

RealTudorLady0:11

I can understand why Margaret made two unsavoury marriages after the death of James. She was young, alone, probably vulnerable in a hostile environment, among waring Lords and had a very young infant son to provide for and rule for. I think she married Angus because he came from the powerful Douglas clan and obviously she fell in love with the wrong man in Henry Stewart. Her brother was a right hypocrite telling her to go back to her husband.

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:11

I think she did it to protect herself so Henry or the council could not marry her to someone she had not chosen

Elizabeth Goodman0:11

It must have been very hard for them even though they knew it was their duty

Lorna Wanstall0:11

I think Margaret was resolved to keep the peace between Scotland and England, but sadly it never worked out that way

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:12

RealTudorLady - Henry's behaviour towards Margaret and her divorce given he was after Anne Boleyn is atrocious

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:13

Lorna - Margaret definitely tried to keep the peace and always wanted her son to meet his uncle but James wouldn't

Rachel McNeil0:13

You can't blame James for being wary. What a pawn he would have been in Henry's hands...

Lorna Wanstall 0:14

RTL yes that is something that always jabs a nerve with me. H8 telling Margaret she was a wicked woman to not honour her vows blah de blah, whilst all the while he was trying to rid himself of a devoted wife.

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:14

Claire - what comes down to us is so limited. Thats about the only thing we know of their relationship

RealTudorLady0:14

Aye, I agree, Sarah Beth, he certainly applied a double standard and she needed his help, not censor but of course he treated Anne Boleyn so terrible and he also saw Scotland as a fiefdom of England.

Rachel McNeil0:15

Why do you think James IV's body was not treated the dignity that his status should have been afforded?

Sarah-Beth Watkins 0:16

RealTudorLady - exactly. When he was happy with affairs in Scotland he ignored Margaret even though she asked for his help. But why her asking for a divorce threw him so much? Did he feel he was losing control?

Laurie Duerr0:16

Her treatment by the Scots and her brother even reminds me of how Katherine of Aragon was treated for awhile after Arthur died, caught between two countries and kings...

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:17

Rachel - he had been excommunicated and Henry wasn't sure whether to give him a proper burial but when that was lifted he still didn't do anything. What gets me is that as far as I know no one in Scotland asked for him back

Rachel McNeil0:17

What was Margaret like as a regent? Do you feel she was effective?

RealTudorLady0:17

Why was Albany so involved in France and in trying to take over Scotland?

Lorna Wanstall0:18

Rachel, I think you have to look at the circumstances of what was going on.. James thought he could conquer England whilst H8 was on a pub crawl in France. James was sadly mistaken and basically the wolves went in for the kill each man was determined to have a slice of the glory they felt of the scots army and more to the point the king.

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:19

Rachel - its sad to say but I don't think Margaret saw further than her son - that's just my opinion of course. I didn't find any evidence that she had any thoughts on how to improve the lives of the Scottish people

RealTudorLady0:20

Why had James been excommunicated?

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:22

RealTudorLady - Albany was raised in France by his father who was related to James III and so was seen as the next legit mate successor before Margaret's son

RealTudorLady0:23

Thanks, Sarah Beth

Lorna Wanstall0:23

Sarah there were a few Scottish lords who could have also claimed the throne as well as Albany

Rachel McNeil0:23

Why was Henry VIII so enamoured with his niece Margaret Douglas but not his own sister?

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:23

RealTudorLady - James was excommunicated from the church as punishment for breaking the Truce of Perpetual Peace

RealTudorLady0:24

Cheers

Lorna Wanstall0:24

Rachel Margaret Douglas did infruiate H8 at times as well too

Laurie Duerr_{0:25}

Do you think that Margaret finally had some comfort in seeing her son eventually reign in his own right, and marry a high-status French woman in Marie de Guise?

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:25

Lorna - there were especially the earls of Arran. I'd have to check the connection but none of them seemed to want it rather calling for Albany to take control

Yes, but she was quite favoured upon - there is even an account of Anne Boleyn buying her clothing

RealTudorLady0:26

In your talk you mentioned a gift of two Moorish girls to Margaret. They both grew up to serve her. Do we know if they went home or had children in Scotland?

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:26

Rachel - Margaret Douglas was Archibald Douglas' daughter too and Henry thought through him he could control Scotland

Lorna Wanstall 0:26

MD was married off to Matthew Lennox after H8 bribed him with a great deal of money and titles. That's not to say they weren't happy cause I get the impression they were happy. But MD I feel wanted a lot more than just being a lady

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:27

Laurie - I think Margaret was delighted to have James on the throne but he didn't have much time for her sadly

Sarah-Beth Watkins 0:27

RealTudorLady - I couldn't find any other mention of the Moorish girls or what happened to them Laurie Duerr0:28

Thanks Sarah-Beth, yes it is just another unfortunate part of her life...

Lorna Wanstall0:28

Laurie, I believe Margaret made much of Marie De guise when she came to marry her son and insisted she had the best of all care.

Sarah-Beth Watkins 0:29

I find Margaret Douglas' early life hazy. She only really enters the records when she's with her uncle in England but it does seem that Margaret focused on James rather than her daughter

RealTudorLady0:30

I think it is interesting that Margaret's great granddaughter and her grandson were cousins and married each other, being Mary Q of Scots and Henry Lord Darnley, but with tragic outcomes and of course Elizabeth wasn't pleased and poor MD was imprisoned again.

Lorna Wanstall 0:30

Did H8 mourn the death of his sister or did he just act as if she hadn't excited

Lorna Wanstall0:30

wexsted I mean

Lorna Wanstall0:30

Grr you know what I mean

ADMIN Tim0:31

Existed?

RealTudorLadv0:31

Thanks for your information on the girls, Sarah Beth

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:31

Its seems that Marie's sons - Margaret's grandchildren - brought her and James closer Lorna Wanstall 0:32

I can actually see the reasoning behind why Mary QoS married Darnley

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:32

Lorna - sadly I can find no reaction from Henry on his sister's death

Elizabeth Goodman0:33

Has anyone seen Reign?

Sarah-Beth Watkins 0:33

But then I'm not sure he reacted much to Mary's death either

RealTudorLady0:33

No reason in love, Lorna.

Rachel McNeil0:33

I haven't seen it I am afraid

Claire Ridgway0:33

It's spooky about Margaret having dreams about James IV before Flodden and trying to stop him going!

Lorna Wanstall0:33

Wash your mouth out Elizabeth, reign is a swear word.. LOL

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:33

Oh my lord Reign! I watched it in fascination but the modern music phased me!

Claire Ridgway 0:33

Elizabeth, I haven't. I was a bit put off it by what some people had said.

Laurie Duerr0:34

Do you think that Margaret Douglas' less than stellar choices in men have something to do with her mother's own unhealthy relationships not being a good role model for her?

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:34

Claire - I think Margaret was also trying to put him off his womanising!

Elizabeth Goodman0:34

It's good if you suspend disbelief for a while!

Claire Ridgway 0:34

Sarah-Beth, ah, ok!

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:35

Laurie - I don't think Margaret was much of a role model for her - just bad luck I'm afraid!

Rachel McNeil0:35

I'm wary on programmes such as Reign. I think they are great at engaging people, but sometimes they like to fabricate stories to draw people in.

RealTudorLady0:35

Maybe, Claire, if Margaret had not been pregnant she might have defied him and gone after him to try to prevent the battle.

Laurie Duerr0:35

Thanks, yes I guess so! I do feel for both her and her daughter..

Lorna Wanstall0:36

Claire, I believe Margaret may have tried to reason with J4 before Flodden, but like all stuarts they tended to act very recklessly and it led to their deaths

Elizabeth Goodman0:36

Rachel - very true!

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:36

I find Margaret's life so sad really. She struggled so much.

Sarah-Beth Watkins 0:37

Lorna - I think Margaret could see the outcome. She tried to stop him and even go with him but it wasn't to be.

Laurie Duerr0:37

And the fact that H8 disliked that side of his family so much that he specifically excluded all of them from his will, really shows the tension among them..

Elizabeth Goodman0:38

Lorna - and their poor soldiers!

Claire Ridgway0:38

It's annoying that Margaret just gets neglected so often.

Lorna Wanstall0:38

After the death of J4 I think Margaret wasseen as a hinderance more than a help in Scotland

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:38

I really don't understand Henry's treatment of Margaret - but then there's a lot about Henry's behaviour I don't understand!

Rachel McNeil 0:39

Perhaps he thought Margaret and her children didn't try hard enough to promote English interest and his eyes it wasn't good enough to warrant them being featured in his will

Lorna Wanstall 0:39

H8 was a spoilt brat who needed a damn good hiding.

I agree with you Lorna

Rachel McNeil0:39

about the hinderance comment not the damn good hiding part

Sarah-Beth Watkins 0:39

Margaret was English and they saw her as being in Henry's pocket. It didn't help that sometimes she was and sometimes she wasn't

RealTudorLady0:39

I know, I am now looking at three books on Margaret Douglas from where I am sat and only one old one before this on Margaret Q of Scotland.

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:41

There's not much out there about Tudor women

Lorna Wanstall0:41

Do you think that a lot of H8 problems with Margaret all boiled down to jealously? After all she became queen before he became king and perhaps taunted him a little that she was a queen and therefore he had to do as she said sort of thing

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:42

Lorna - you could see why he would be jealous!

Laurie Duerr_{0:42}

But H7 was supposedly very close to her, yes? And her leaving to marry J4 was apparently hard on him as well?

Lorna Wanstall0:43

I agree Sarah Beth

Rachel McNeil0:43

I don't believe it was jealously. I believe it was her failure to promote English interests and cease Scottish raids on English soil

RealTudorLady0:43

I believe Henry and Margaret were very much alike and both proud Tudors who wanted to do things their own way and that is why they both snarled at each other across the border.

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:43

Laurie - As far as we know they were close but its hard to tell to what level. he definitely felt her leaving

Elizabeth Goodman0:44

Sarah-Beth, had Elizabeth of York passed away by then?

Lorna Wanstall0:45

Elizabeth Yes she had.

Yes and Arthur

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:45

Rachel - I think Margaret tried but there was just no way she was powerful enough to stop something like that. She was so mistrusted by both sides

Elizabeth Goodman0:45

Very sad time for them all

Laurie Duerr0:45

So do you think then that H8 had wished he had gone to Flodden instead of France, to be on the front lines when J4 and the Scots fell?

Lorna Wanstall0:45

I believe Elizabeth of york had been dead about 3 months, by the time Margaret set off to Scotland

Sarah-Beth Watkins 0:46

Elizabeth - yes she died whilst Margaret was preparing to go to Scotland

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:46

Laurie - oh no I think France was Henry's lifelong enemy and he would rather beat the French!

Elizabeth Goodman 0:46

Thank you!

Lorna Wanstall 0:47

How did Margaret and K.O.A get on

Laurie Duerr0:47

LOL yes, very true, thanks!

RealTudorLady0:47

1502/3 was a very mixed year for the infant Tudor Court with the marriage and death of Arthur and death of Q E of York and the departure of Margaret to Scotland. It must have been an emotionally draining time.

Lorna Wanstall 0:48

H7 I beliee accompanied his daughter as far as his mother's estates in Colly westen

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:48

Lorna - I don' think they had much of a relationship but Katherine sent her her priest to counsel her on not getting her divorce and touchingly also sent clothes when she was pregnant

Sarah-Beth Watkins 0:49

RealTudorLady - I think it was a traumatic time for them all

RealTudorLady0:49

For Margaret and her father I think this must have been a traumatic parting. She didn't even have her mum anymore to say goodbye to her.

Lorna Wanstall0:50

So really then Margaret and K.O.A whole relationship (loosely worded) was diplomatic when it suited them.

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:50

And unlike some Tudor mothers Elizabeth of York seems to have been particularly close to her children

Elizabeth Goodman0:51

It's a wonder they managed to carry on at all!

RealTudorLady0:51

Yes, Sarah Beth I really do agree.

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:51

Lorna - I think you are right. I'm also unsure of Margaret's relationship with her sister Mary

Elizabeth Goodman0:52

I think the early loss of Elizabeth of York had a profound effect on Henry VIII

Claire Ridgway 0:53

Hi Connie! Welcome!

Laurie Duerr0:53

But ultimately, as you mention in your talk, the case can be made that Margaret succeeded in her mission to raise up her children when James VI and I became king of Scotland and England..

ADMIN Tim0:53

Hi Connie - welcome to the Tudor Society!

Connie Gaston 0:53

I made it!

Sarah-Beth Watkins 0:53

Elizabeth - definitely but you would have thought it would make him closer to his sisters

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:53

Hi Connie!

Elizabeth Goodman 0:53

Sarah-Beth, true!

Connie Gaston 0:53

Happy to be here

RealTudorLady0:54

It was touching in 1517 after the Evil May Day riots when all three Queens, Mary, Margaret and Katherine knelt to beg Henry for the lives of the young Prentice boys and he granted it to them. What a scene that must have been!

Claire Ridgway0:54

Connie, you can listen to Sarah-Beth's talk on Margaret Tudor

at https://www.tudorsociety.com/expert-talk-sarah-beth-watkins-margaret-tudor/ and we'll also be publishing a transcript of this chat session in the next few days.

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:54

Henry's relationship with women on a psychological level would be a book in itself!

RealTudorLady0:55

Hello Connie

Lorna Wanstall0:55

Difficult one to call really with Margaret and Mary, Scotland were French allies and as Margaret was accepted as Scots and was married to a Scottish Laird, she would naturally be viewed by the Englsh and perhaps more so by H8 as an enemy as he and France were fair weather friends when it suited them to be.

Connie Gaston0:55

I find Margaret fascinating. So ironic that Henry disparaged her for having a divorce in the family.

Rachel McNeil0:55

I think the pressure he was under as king was phenomenal, and more often than not you had to put your country first instead of your family. I think Henry was victim to this and that pretending not to care was potentially a mask. Who knows though..

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:55

RealTudorLady - just imagine! I'd love to know what they all talked about after they were successful!

Claire Ridgway0:56

Connie, yes, she is, and Henry could be such a hypocrite!

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:57

Connie - me too! And yes you are right Henry's attitude to Margaret wanting a divorce was just slightly two-faced!

Lorna Wanstall0:57

RTL The mercy of may day riots, I think that was a set up not something done on the spur of them moment. But you are right it would have been seen as something special to see

Rachel McNeil0:57

Did Margaret have a favourite Scottish residence? If so where was it

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:58

Lorna - it was definitely stage-managed! But what a spectacle! And for once Henry was merciful!

RealTudorLady0:58

Yes, Lorna, it was a show to demonstrate mercy and power.

Lorna Wanstall 0:58

I believe she liked linlithgow Rachel

Sarah-Beth Watkins0:59

Rachel - I think she loved Linlithgow the most but it wasn't as good defense wise as say Stirling. Has anyone been?

Lorna Wanstall0:59

Sarah Beth The golden Sod I mean God wasn't merciful for long though was he

ADMIN Tim0:59

Thank you all for coming to this wonderful chat, and thank you to Sarah-Beth for her excellent talk and for answering so many questions this evening. We're happy to announce that Laurie Duerr is the winner of a copy of Sarah-Beth's book "Margaret Tudor", congratulations!

Feel free to carry on chatting - the chatroom is always open. I'm off to bed now as it's 1am here. Thanks

Claire Ridgway0:59

Thank you so much to everyone for joining in today's chat, and a big thank you to Sarah-Beth for being so giving of her knowledge and her time. It's been fun as always. If you haven't listened to Sarah-Beth's talk yet, you can catch it at https://www.tudorsociety.com/expert-talk-sarah-beth-watkins-margaret-tudor/. Our expert for September is Julian Humphrys from the Battlefields Trust.

Sarah-Beth Watkins 1:00

Congrats Laurie!

Laurie Duerr1:00

Wow, thank you Claire and Tim! And Sarah-Beth! I can't wait to read the book!!

Claire Ridgway 1:00

Congratulations Laurie!