

Hello Nathan, lovely to see you.

Louise Bridge23:59

Hi Laurie!

Lorna Wanstall23:59

Nathen is there any truth to the story that Margaret's father killed himself

Claire Ridgway23:59

Please don't stand on ceremony. Fire away!

Laurie Duerr23:59

Hi Lorna and Bill!

RealTudorLady0:00

Do you think Edmund Beaufort was the father of Henry Tudor?

Bill Wolff0:00

Are we on??

Laurie Duerr0:00

Great first question!!

Nathen Amin0:01

Hi Real. Edmund being the father of Edmund Tudor I presume you mean? No I don't. There is no contemporary evidence to support it, and neither Edmund Beaufort, or Edmund Tudor raised this. Consider if you're Henry Tudor and you knew you had double Beaufort blood, double the claim, you'd use it, no?

Claire Ridgway0:01

Yes, we are, Bill.

Nathen Amin0:02

This is another recent 'theory' that people are running away with online to as part of the Ricardian crusade to trash Henry VII and the Beauforts, quite frankly, furthered by John Ashdown Hill's erroneous comment regarding Edmund and Jasper's coat of arms

Nathen Amin0:03

In a world without DNA tests, the key important thing is father recognition. Did the father recognise the son? For this reason, I pay little notice to rumours of Edward IV's father or the many kids people claim are fathered by Henry VIII

Nathen Amin0:03

if the father didn't recognise them, then it's almost a pointless conversation.

Nathen Amin0:03

Even if we could prove it by dna these days, it doesn't actually change anything

RealTudorLady0:03

Sorry, yes, meant Edmund Tudor. I know they had a relationship he and Catherine de Valois but there was nothing about a physical relationship. Owen didn't question his son's legitimacy and yes, I would use a double claim to the crown. Thank you.

ADMIN Tim0:04

I really like that perspective Nathen. A very keen observation.

Nathen Amin0:04

Again, no evidence of a relationship. Speculation or concern about a relationship, possibly. But no evidence anything actually happened

Claire Ridgway0:05

I often see criticism aimed at Edmund Tudor re consummating his marriage to Margaret Beaufort when she was so young, do you think it was out of the ordinary?

Laurie Duerr0:05

Very fair comments.. but can I just ask on that topic, your thoughts around the Duke of Somerset (with Margaret of Anjou) being the father of Edward of Lancaster?

Lorna Wanstall0:05

Do you feel that Margaret would have married Jasper Tudor if given the chance

Nathen Amin0:06

The clause in parliament put through in 1427 to stop Katherine de Valois marrying anyone else, taken to mean Edmund Beaufort, was put forward by Humphrey Duke of Gloucester. At that time he was involved in a bitter feud with Cardinal Beaufort and rightly feared the prospect of the Beauforts taking over by, for example, Edmund marrying Katherine de Valois. But there is no evidence this potential relationship ever actually happened. It could be Gloucester just preparing

RealTudorLady0:06

I believe JAH based his theory on one by G L Harriss but yes, there was much speculation on both parts.

Nathen Amin0:07

Hi Laurie, its the same principle - there is just no evidence outside salacious gossip and the fury of John Ashdown Hill and the like to rubbish anyone and everyone in the period.

Laurie Duerr0:07

Thanks Nathen!

Nathen Amin0:07

I spoke with Professor Ralph Griffiths about GL Harris' comment, in a footnote - it was Prof Ralph's assement that his old friend GL was being "mischievous"!

Lorna Wanstall0:08

Glouster would have liked to be King, and certainly Elenor Cobham would have realised being Queen..

Lorna Wanstall0:08

relished

Claire Ridgway0:09

"Mischievous", I like that!

Nathen Amin0:10

Claire - you may be better sited than me on this question really - from what I can gather it was above board churchwise, so legally ok but morally, very dubious. I wonder if he did this off his own initiative, Edmund, or whether he was pressured perhaps by Henry VI or Margaret of Anjou or Jasper or somebody to quickly get a son and secure the Beaufort lands. We are quick to claim Edmund was dastardly, but we know nothing of his character or personality. Literally nothing exists of him.

RealTudorLady0:10

Who is you favourite female Beaufort other than Margaret the mother of Henry Vii?

Nathen Amin0:10

Lorna - again, the boring answer is there is no evidence whatsoever any form or marriage or romantic feelings between Margaret of Jasper exist, so I can't answer that without making it up. I'll leave that to the fiction writers!

Claire Ridgway0:11

Thank you! People do seem to like to make him out to be the bad guy!

Nathen Amin0:11

Real - Thomas Beaufort is my favourite historical figure bar none. Talk about the finest knight in the medieval period - he seems to have been a remarkably competent man fully trusted by those around him, most notably Henry V

Bill Wolff0:12

What, better than my Boy William Marshal, or the Black Prince????

Nathen Amin0:13

Better than them all!

Bill Wolff0:13

My research begins!!!

Laurie Duerr0:14

Nathan, I found your talk so fascinating, about all the descendants of Joan Beaufort reaching across so many families! Do you think that she realized the potential future impact that her children would have??

Claire Ridgway0:14

And your least favourite Beaufort?

RealTudorLady0:14

Thank you. I love the two Joans, the wife of Ralph Neville and the daughter of the first John Beaufort, Joan, Queen of James I of Scotland, two fiece and very awesome women.

Nathen Amin0:15

Laurie - I think to an extent yes. Even before her death many were high flyers, earls, bishops, countesses etc. She knew what she was doing when arranging their marriages. Did she think any would become kings, starting with her grandkids Edward IV and Richard III? No. When she died in 1440, the House of Lancaster was firmly on the throne.

RealTudorLady0:17

I don't know much about Thomas Beaufort. Who was he?

Nathen Amin0:17

Least favourite Beaufort? Haven't ever thought about that. Perhaps John Beaufort, Margaret's dad. Imprisoned as a youth in 1422, he was released in 1438 and just seemed to go n a few year rampage desperate to claw back lost time and lost money. He was a failure as a military captain and died in 1444 - often claimed to be suicide but I actually question the validity of that. Either way, he died having really accomplished nothing

Laurie Duerr0:17

Good points, yes!

Claire Ridgway0:18

Thank you!

Lorna Wanstall0:18

Nathen, is there any truth that Margaret's father killed himself, and just how do you think his death affected Margaret.

Nathen Amin0:19

Real - Thomas was the youngest of the original Beaufort clan and rose from fairly simple beginnings as captain of Ludlow to eventually become chancellor, admiral, earl and duke, and pretty much held very important roles in France during Henry V's war. Without him in place, we wouldn't remember that period today. He was a devout and compassionate man who helped the poor, and if he had lived on beyond 1427, England would have been more the better

Claire Ridgway0:20

Wow, I bet he'd love to read those words about himself.

RealTudorLady0:20

Thanks Nathan, he sounds like a real knight with a knightly heart. I will be doing more research into him, thank you.

Nathen Amin0:21

Lorna - I don't know the answer but I will say we should no longer claim 'he killed himself' as everyone does. The single source for this is the Croyland Chronicle. All other sources simply say he died. Why do I question this? At the time of his death he was in a bitter dispute with Croyland Abbey over some land that bordered one of his estates. He built a road but wouldn't let the abbey use it. Petty stuff but a serious dispute. When he died, the writer from the abbey, the Croyland Chronicler, wrote that some speculated it was murder. He's not an impartial source and may have been trying to muddy his former foe's reputation. So I don't question this.

Nathen Amin0:21

sorry, claim 'he killed himself' without an asterisk, I should add. He may have done, but he may not have done.

Claire Ridgway0:22

And suicide would have been a serious thing, a mortal sin.

Nathen Amin0:22

It would seem an unlikely thing to do, on his child's first birthday, I think, as well.

Claire Ridgway0:22

Yes!

RealTudorLady0:23

When Joan, Queen of Scotland found herself in danger, her husband killed, her son a minor and surrounded by enemies, why didn't her Neville Beaufort relatives come to her rescue?

Nathen Amin0:24

Real - because that isn't how life worked back then, really. They may not have known her personally, and much less would have been inclined to go marching into another kingdom and started a war

Nathen Amin0:24

She was married. She wasn't England's concern

Roland Hui0:24

I read that Margaret Beaufort said that she was 'divinely inspired' to wed Edmund Tudor, with that in mind, do you think that she felt her son Henry was meant for a great destiny (even to be king one day)?

RealTudorLady0:26

Yes, but surely as her relatives, they must have had some obligations?

Lorna Wanstall0:26

Ronald not too sure, but I believe Margaret always said she had "Saint's knees"

RealTudorLady0:28

I don't believe Margaret Beaufort aged twelve would be inspired to wed Edmund Tudor with the great destiny of her future children in mind, Roland, and I think it was the King, Henry VI who arranged their marriage.

Nathen Amin0:28

I suspect Margaret was also viewing things with hindsight! I very doubt Margaret had any thoughts, aspirations, or believes that Henry would become king until Richard III was on the throne at the earlier, and to be honest, lately I believe this wasn't in play until the collapse of Buckingham's rebellion in November 1483. On 2nd November, Buckingham was executed (and he had a better claim to the throne). On 3rd November, the first record we have of Henry Tudor being proclaimed king in Cornwall. Quite frankly, anyone who claims Maggie Beaufort had any hope of Henry becoming king before the rise of Richard III is basing this on no evidence. It's what they want to believe, rather than what they can prove

Roland Hui0:30

Good answer - thanks!

Laurie Duerr0:30

Nathen, do you find it surprising that after the John of Gaunt generation, there was no serious questioning by anyone regarding the validity of the Beaufort line? Especially as they continued to ascend higher ranks?

Nathen Amin0:33

Well, it wasn't really too much of an issue to begin with, The Lancastrian succession seemed fine. Henry IV had four sons, after all. Who knew that three of those would die without sons and Henry V would only have one. The Beaufort claim was first mentioned in 1450 when the Duke of Suffolk was executed. One of the claims against him was that he was trying to marry his son to the 7 year old Margaret Beaufort to get his own blood on the throne. Ricardians will have you believe that the Beaufort claim was invalid and made up by Henry Tudor in 1483 - but it was valid and treated seriously as early as 1450

Laurie Duerr0:34

Very interesting, thanks!

Claire Ridgway0:34

Did you find anything surprising in your research into the Beauforts?

Roland Hui0:35

Nathan - what started your whole interest in the Beauforts?

RealTudorLady0:36

The Beaufort claim was controversial because although illegitimate they were made legitimate by the Pope and Parliament, then the ban was inserted by Henry iv who may have acted unlawfully, but in any event it wasn't a direct claim. The Lancastrian line came via the first marriage of John of Gaunt and they were fully legitimate. The Tudors would have had to remove the House of Lancaster and House of York. It was a distant dream back in the 1440s and 1450s. That things turned out the way they did was due to the wars which followed, the infighting of the House of York and a series of life events. Henry Tudor suddenly found himself with the realistic possibility of a claim being pressed if he could gain support in 1484.

Nathen Amin0:36

Yes, that the claim that they were barred from the throne was not legally valid, having never been endorsed or verified by parliament. That Cardinal Beaufort, who I had known from Shakespeare's plays as an evil man, was well thought of by his contemporaries and a person to be respected - it wasn't just Richard III Shakespeare was keen to malign.

Claire Ridgway0:37

Thank you! Interesting!

Nathen Amin0:37

Real - we can't say the ban was put in by Henry IV. We don't know that. What we know is that three words were written in between the lines in the original act. If you look at the original act, you will see straightaway they were written between the lines. This is not how law works. The original act would need to be repealed by parliament not merely scribbled on.

Nathen Amin0:38

The Beauforts were never legally barred from the throne (as far as current knowledge of existing records, of course, allows us to say, which is a caveat that needs to be added to all known history facts)

Nathen Amin0:39

The Beaufort claim is only controversial today. Back then, it was valid, as shown in 1450 and ultimately 1485. Yes, there were those with better claims, but claims are nothing unless realised.

Laurie Duerr0:39

And I find it extra interesting that a daughter of Joan Beaufort, Cecily, actually ended up being such a key player in the rise of the House of York! Was there any conflict there at all?

RealTudorLady0:40

Yes, I have a very old book on Cardinal Beaufort and found him to be a very clever and astute political leader and nothing like he is portrayed by Shakespeare, who of course was writing for his audience.

Louise Bridge0:43

With such a strong line (many children surviving and marrying well) was there any known rivalry or did the family 'get along' with the presumed aim or rising as high as they could?

Nathen Amin0:43

Cecily Neville is fascinating but so many of the families in the 15th century had Beaufort blood they just got on with it. The Percys, the Mowbrays, the Nevilles, the Staffords. The primary responsibility of each person back then, each dynast, was to further their own family line and that's it. All this talk about Richard III not wanting to harm his nephews - his loyalty was to his son and his son's future, not his nephews or cousins or anybody else. We keep thinking in modern terms for those back then

RealTudorLady0:43

Thanks for that explanation Nathan. That puts it into perspective. Laurie, Proud Cis, now there's a girl!

Nathen Amin0:44

I don't think they had some wish to 'rise as high as they could'. They were naturally high. They were the closest kin to the Lancastrian kings. Their position at the top was natural. They weren't the Woodvilles or Boleyns, for example. They were royalty.

Laurie Duerr0:44

Very good context, thanks! So many powerful families from that line!

Bill Wolff0:45

Very good thought on the Then and Now, Nathan.

Nathen Amin0:46

In fact, their unassailable position at the top is ultimately what drew them into conflict with Richard of York in 1450. He wanted in on the top table, but couldn't get past the Beauforts, who were fully trusted by their Lancaster cousins

Laurie Duerr0:46

Yes good point, somewhat ironic..

RealTudorLady0:46

The big rivalry appeared to be between the Duke of York and Somerset. Do you think there was ever a chance they could have worked in one government or did Henry vi simply make this impossible?

Nathen Amin0:48

Look at today's politics in the UK or perhaps a sports team - sometimes you just have too many egos in the same place, who even though they are apparently on the same team working towards the same objective, still fall out and jostle for power. I think both men simply couldn't work together, but Henry VI naturally preferred the cousin he had grown up with all his life, who he knew deeply, rather than some outsider York.

Nathen Amin0:49

York and Somerset were also the only two royal dukes in the country - it wasn't said at the time, but one of them presumably was the heir to the throne until Henry finally had a kid in 1453. Was that at the back of their minds?

Claire Ridgway0:50

What are you working on at the moment, Nathen, and what would you like to work on in the future, if you don't mind sharing?

Laurie Duerr0:50

Very true.. but Margaret of Anjou also wasn't conducive to working out an arrangement with duke of York..

RealTudorLady0:51

I believe York saw himself as the true heir all along and really wanted to be King, but he was trying to compromise, at least at first. England did better under his first Protectorate after all.

Nathen Amin0:51

But why should she? York was haughty and presumptive. Felt he had a divine right just to ride in and take up the reins. I feel I can do better in charge of the company I work for but alas, such is life.

Laurie Duerr0:52

Thanks, yes for sure!

RealTudorLady0:53

Margaret was the mother of the infant heir to the throne. I don't blame her defending his rights.

RealTudorLady0:55

Do you think there is anything in rumours that younger Edmund Beaufort and Edward IV had a relationship?

Nathen Amin0:57

Ah, John Ashdown Hill. I'm going with a resounding No. They shared a bed. That was completely normal way of showing reconciliation between two former enemies. They had literally been at war with each other for four years. Their deep intense friendship lasted a few months.

Bill Wolff0:57

Thank you Nathan, and fellow Lovers, it was a fun and insightful hour!

Claire Ridgway0:57

A big thank you to Nathen for joining us tonight, and for his excellent talk, which you can find at <https://www.tudorsociety.com/the-beauforts-expert-talk-nathen-amin/>, if you missed it or want to watch it again. It's always wonderful to have Nathen talk to us.

Bill is tonight's winner and he wins a copy of Nathen's book on the Beauforts, so we'll arrange to get a copy sent out to you, Bill.

Thank you, everyone, for coming. Our next live chat is on 4th May at the same time, and it's an informal one on the fall of Anne Boleyn.

Nathen Amin0:58

JAH also seems to think the relationship happened because Henry Beaufort (not Edmund) was cousin to Eleanor Talbot so they must have looked similar and therefore Edward fancied them both. I look nothing like any of my cousins. Its very iffy history based on nothing more than making Richard III innocent whilst rubbishing everyone else

Laurie Duerr0:58

Thank you Nathen! Very insightful chat!

Nathen Amin0:58

Well done Bill.

Louise Bridge0:59

Thank you Nathen. Congrats Bill. Goodnight everyone

Claire Ridgway0:59

Thank you, Nathen, and thank you everyone!

RealTudorLady0:59

Thanks Nathan, very intense but probably not lovers. Interesting though. Thanks again for your lovely talk with us and answering our questions.

Bill Wolff0:59

Thanks too, Claire!

Nathen Amin0:59

No problems. Thank you all. Good night!

Claire Ridgway1:00

Good night!

Laurie Duerr1:00

Thanks Claire! good night everyone!

Claire Ridgway1:00

See you soon, Laurie!

Claire Ridgway1:01

Night! Have a good week everyone!

RealTudorLady1:02

Thanks Nathan. Goodnight all. Congratulations Bill. I do believe Richard was innocent though, but that's another topic. Cheers. Goodnight.