

# Live Chat with Lauren Johnson

Hi all - looking forward to your questions! x

Claire Ridgway23:49

Your talk was excellent, thanks so much for doing it.

Claire Ridgway23:49

Hi Michal!

Lauren Johnson23:49

Thanks Claire!

Michal Schick23:50

Hi Claire! Hi Lauren!

Claire Ridgway23:51

We'll wait until the o'clock to start, but welcome!

Lorna Wanstall23:56

Hello everyone

Doc Clark23:56

Hi Lorna

Lorna Wanstall23:56

Claire did you get a chance to look at what I sent you?

Lorna Wanstall23:56

Hi Doc

Claire Ridgway23:57

Hi Doc! Hi Lorna!

Claire Ridgway23:57

Not yet, Lorna, but thank you.

Doc Clark23:57

Hi Claire.

RealTudorLady23:57

Goodevening

Claire Ridgway23:57

Hi Georgia! Hi RTL!

Lorna Wanstall23:57

RTL nice to see you again

Claire Ridgway23:57

Welcome to today's live chat with Lauren Johnson on Henry VI. Thank you so much to Lauren for her talk and for joining us today. Feel free to ask Lauren about her talk, Henry VI, and her research and books.

Lauren Johnson23:58

Hi all!

Bill Wolff23:58

Hi Claire and all.

Lorna Wanstall23:58

Lauren do you think Margaret of Anjou's actions play a part in kick starting the war of the Roses.

Laurie Duerr23:58

Hi Lauren, Claire, and everyone!

Lorna Wanstall23:59

Hi Bill

Hi Lorna - I don't, I think Margaret responded to the difficulties of 1450 onwards and Henry's incapacity. I would blame York more TBH

Bill Wolff23:59

Hi Lorna

RealTudorLady23:59

Hi Lauren, do you think that had Richard Duke of York remained in power after the first Protectorate that the conflict which resulted may have been avoided or was war inevitable?

Claire Ridgway23:59

Hi Bill! Hi Ceri! Hi Laurie!

Hi Claire, hi everyone.

Lauren Johnson00:00

Hi RealTudorLady, no I suspect there would have been issues from the Lancastrian camp focussed around Duke of Somerset, who York had illegally imprisoned without trial...

Lorna Wanstall00:00

I am inclined to agree with you, I think she did her best to prevent w

Rozsa00:01

Hello all.

Lorna Wanstall00:01

But she also knew that given Henry's mental problems she would have to step up and do what Henry couldn't

Lauren Johnson00:01

...But Henry's actions in immediate aftermath of becoming healthy again, restoring Somerset and ousting York definitely didn't help!

Lorna Wanstall00:01

H Rozsa

Claire Ridgway00:01

Hi Rozsa! Hi Roland!

Roland Hui00:01



RealTudorLady00:02

Yes I think York really was pushing his own claim and had a personal grudge with Somerset.

Lauren Johnson00:02

I would argue that Henry didn't exhibit mental health issues until summer 1453 - he was a rubbish king but it wasn't because of mental incapacity.

Rozsa00:02



Lauren Johnson00:02

Definitely agree RealTudorLady - York vs Somerset (and Henry's inability to peacefully resolve their dispute) was hugely important to how we end up in the Wars of the Roses!

Lorna Wanstall00:02

I think part of Henry's problems, was that he was too soft whe it came to dealing with anything. He readily forgave people who had tried to cause him harm

Georgia Cosenza00:03

Hi all

Ceri Creffield00:03

Lauren, What do you think triggered Henry's mental problems?

Lauren Johnson00:03

Lorna, totally agree. Nature & nurture combined made Henry totally unsuited to medieval kingship. He needed to be ruthless and he simply wasn't.

Doc Clark00:03

Regardless, mental illness seldom comes with a sudden onset. Most mental illnesses have observable precursors. I suspect those were there but no one in those days understood those sorts of things. And the sketchy state of the historical record probably didn't record things that were symptoms.

RealTudorLady00:04

Margaret tried to propose a form of government but seems to have been put down as a woman and French. Did she really try to compromise?

Lauren Johnson00:04

Ceri, I think it's complex but simply, he'd endured 3 years of mental & physical turmoil after rebellion & assassination of his advisors. He then lost most of France. It tipped him over the edge.

Lorna Wanstall00:04

Would Henry V1 been different had his father lived.

Roland Hui00:05

What is the modern medical explanation for H6's mental breakdown?

Lauren Johnson00:05

RealTudorLady, Margaret's records of gift giving in 1440s/50s suggest she was trying to be conciliatory - the birth of Edward of Lancaster in the midst of Henry's mental collapse totally alters her attitudes & behaviour.

Rozsa00:05

His grandfather was also insane. Poor Catherine de Valois must have worried about her son during his childhood, fearing he had inherited unstable tendencies, as it appears he did.

Lauren Johnson00:06

Lorna: MASSIVELY different. Henry VI never even met his father and never saw kingship in action. He simply had no idea had to do it in reality - his whole knowledge came from books

Doc Clark00:06

I do not believe there is any consensus as to what his mental illness was though it seems closest to catatonic schizophrenia

Claire Ridgway00:06

Hi Louise!

Lorna Wanstall00:06

Rozsa but don't you think it strange that neither Jasper or Edmund showed any signs of mental health issues

RealTudorLady00:07

I agree Lauren. I believe she turned into a shewolf whose cub was threatened and tried to defend his rights and inheritance.

Lauren Johnson00:07

Roland & Doc, I reject the retrospective diagnosis of schizophrenia - Henry's symptoms (as far as the patchy record allow us to deduce them) simply don't fit and are UTTERLY unlike those of his grandfather Charles VI (for whom we have lots of info)

Ceri Creffield00:07

When did Henry's uncles first start to involve him in the business of governing? how old was he?

Michal Schick00:07

(Slightly askew of topic: Catherine de Valois has had my profound sympathies ever since I read the scene in Henry V where he is "wooing her." Ew, back off, man.)

Lauren Johnson00:07

I don't believe Henry inherited his mental illness. The key similarity between him and Charles VI was that both were child kings with warring uncles, I think.

Doc Clark00:08

I didn't equate H6's mental illness with his grandfather's

Lauren Johnson00:08

Michal, yep with you!

Rozsa00:08

Hi Lorna - they say certain traits skip a generation. Am thinking this was one of them.

Lorna Wanstall00:08

Agreed Lauren, H6 mental problems didn't come with burst of temper or delusions such as being made of glass.

Lauren Johnson00:09

Ceri, Henry was king from the moment of his father's death and attending parliament / involved in choosing chancellor as a baby. Although he was crowned in England at 8 and France at 10, he only properly took power from his late teens

Doc Clark00:09

Mental illnesses skipping generations is a myth and not statistically supported.

Rozsa00:09

Michal - Catherine's dynastic marriage with Henry V may have motivated her to choose her second husband for love, since she had done her duty first time around.

Bill Wolff00:09

Agree Doc

Lauren Johnson00:10

The main rationale for schizophrenia has been Henry's alleged hallucinations, which are problematic coz they were described by a man trying to make him out to be a saint after his death - and in C15th you could have 'visions' without any implication of mental illness.

Lorna Wanstall00:10

Rosza you could be right there.

Lauren Johnson00:10

Rosza agree entirely abt Catherine's choice of 2nd husband.

Ceri Creffield00:10

Lauren, I just wondered how well he was schooled an prepared for responsibility.

RealTudorLady00:10

Henry was also a very pious man and he certainly wasn't a warrior but he had obsessions about the financial involvement in his colleges as well, putting too much money in the wrong place. His inability to make strict decisions and to remove poor advisers didn't help him.

Lorna Wanstall00:11

Well Owen Tudor was supposed to have been a very handsome man.

Doc Clark00:11

Granted, what qualifies as schizophrenia is mutable, has changed over the years, and is actually different right now depending on which side of the Atlantic Ocean you live on.

Rozsa00:11

If its in the family, its something to be watched for. This is why doctors always ask if there is any mental illness in the family on input forms. Sadly it seems some mental fragility was passed down to Henry VI.

Lauren Johnson00:12

Ceri, he was given best tutors (including warrior comrades of H5) and considered something of a prodigy in reading/ writing/ religious studies as a child. Even after his mental collapse in 1453-5 his councillors still respected & sought his knowledge of historical texts and legal precedent (in 1460)

Lauren Johnson00:12

Doc, that's interesting - what is the continental difference?

Lorna Wanstall00:12

I remember reading once many years ago that H6 refused to travel anywhere on a Sunday.

Lauren Johnson00:13

Lorna, the no-sunday travel story comes from John Blackman, the same guy who said Henry had visions of the Virgin Mary and saints. He's a bit of a suspect source

Ceri Creffield00:13

Lauren, I guess it must have been harder to cope with the reality than the theory then.

Rozsa00:13

I heard Owen Tudor was very much devoted to Catherine de Valois, before and during their marriage. I'm happy for both of them and history benefited from their strong progeny.

RealTudorLady00:13

What was his illness some form of catatonic depression? Doesn't schizophrenia begin in teen years and Henry didn't have any such problems back then?

Lauren Johnson00:14

Ceri, I think that's exactly it - his books didn't prepare him for what being a king actually meant. he wanted peace & education. he didn't realise to be a strong C15th king you sometimes had to be brutal.

Ceri Creffield00:15

Yes, he certainly lacked a ruthless streak.

Lauren Johnson00:15

Realtudorlady, if we're going to diagnose Henry I'd incline towards depression instead of schizophrenia. Having looked at medical records for Henry, there isn't really any evidence for earlier mental health issues - just a lot of disgruntled rumour from grumpy subjects coz he's losing the French wars!

RealTudorLady00:15

Henry could be ruthless at times as well and was forced to act with brutality after the Cade Rebellion.

Lorna Wanstall00:15

Yes Owen Tudor does seem to be a fascinated person Rosza. Such a shame his life ended so tragically.

Lorna Wanstall00:16

In Hereford Market square

Rozsa00:16

Henry VI's temperament reminds me of Louis II's - 1st husband of Eleanor of Aquitaine. Suited for a life of reflection not constant decision-making with bad consequences to whatever choice is made.

RealTudorLady00:16

Thanks, Lauren.

Lauren Johnson00:16

RealTudorLady, were there specific acts you're thinking of? He was actually pretty mediatory in immediate aftermath of Cade's revolt, with lots of pardons. Only as rebellions continued (and perhaps Somerset's influence made itself felt) did he start to move into the 'harvest of heads' territory...

Lorna Wanstall00:17

I have a picture somewhere of the plaque that marks the place where his head fell.

Doc Clark00:17

American coding of mental illnesses have seen a widespread overhaul in the the definitions of the major psychoses, especially in schizophrenia and the manic-depressive spectrum, with the result that many things that used to fall into schizophrenia now fall on the manic-depressive "spectrum". Also there are newer psychoses whose definitions have expanded like the sociopathic personality disorders.

Lauren Johnson00:17

Interesting.

Doc Clark00:18

So a lot of stuff that used to be called schizophrenia are now different diseases

Roland Hui00:18

It's interesting that Edward IV was not censured by his contemporaries for murdering Henry VI (even though it was said he died naturally, I'm sure no one really believed that).

Lorna Wanstall00:18

Was it York's intention to take the throne?

Lauren Johnson00:19

Roland, I think you're right - Henry's cult as a saint was in large part down to a feeling of the unfairness of his death (I agree, murder). He was remembered as gentle & king & frankly a bit pathetic. Not the sort who deserved to be killed as a prisoner.

Lorna Wanstall00:19

Roland the same could be said of H4 and R2. Did R2 really die of melancholy?

Rozsa00:19

I believe Owen said that he wished his head to fall into Catherine's lap. So wonderfully romantic. No wonder he has been remembered through the ages.

Lauren Johnson00:20

I think there was some censure of Edward, Roland - within a few years, York (Edward's dynastic home city) was exhibiting a statue of Henry as if he was a martyr saint

Lorna Wanstall00:20

Rosza, I believe the last words Owen said were "Just think this (my) head used to rest in the lap of a Queen"

Roland Hui00:21

Why was Henry VII's attempt to make Henry VI a saint by the Vatican ultimately unsuccessful?

Lauren Johnson00:21

Lorna, I think York's initial intention was just to be a chief minister of Henry - only as that failed and from 1455 with fallout from Battle of St Albans did he start to rethink and move towards crown

Laurie Duerr00:21

But I had thought that the reason E4 (likely) murdered H6 was so that there was less likelihood of him actually giving his followers a reason to rally in support of him, etc.

Rozsa00:21

Lorna, thank you. So very poignant.

Lauren Johnson00:21

Lorna, you're right - Owen's last words were a very C15th meditation on how he'd fallen from the lap of a queen to an executioner's block!

Michal Schick00:22

I wonder to what extent assassination of the monarch was low-key tolerated, as long as everybody pretended it was an accident? It does seem like the important part was the story that came out, rather than the reality of the bloody deed.

[Lauren Johnson00:22](#)

Roland, H7 failed to make H6 a saint because of papal politics - they'd moved away from canonising murdered laymen because it was getting a bit overly political. They preferred people living godly, quiet lives.

Doc Clark00:23

Just to clarify real quick something RTL mentioned, half of all psychoses manifest by age 14 in males, 3/4 by age 24, and 90% before age 40; HOWEVER, a mental illness can manifest at any time in life.

Lauren Johnson00:23

Michal, I think you're partly right, but it depended on the monarch. No one really regretted R2, who had become tyrannical and (arguably) that justified deposing & killing him. H6 was definitely no tyrant.

RealTudorLady00:23

Its very interesting that the House of York aka Edward iv only gave the order for Henry to be killed after the House of Lancaster was no more aka Prince Edward killed after or during the Battle of Tewkesbury. It is almost as if a) pointless to keep him alive b) having lost the crown and fought two battles to regain it that he wasn't going to risk that again. Plus now he had a new son himself.

Lorna Wanstall00:24

Lauren couldn't that be argued though? As Thomas More was executed and he was named a saint

Doc Clark00:24

I did not realize H7 tried to get H6 canonized. When did he make that push?

Lauren Johnson00:24

RTL & Laurie, yes I think Edward had had enough of H6's supporters resisting him in henry's name. H6 himself was a spent force and margaret too after her son's death, but from 1471 E4 systematically wipes out Lancastrian threats.

Lauren Johnson00:25

Lorna, Thomas More wasn't canonised until 1935.

Michal Schick00:25

Goodness, that's a bit of a wait for the guy!

Lauren Johnson00:26

Joan of Arc had a pretty long wait too, poor lass.

Lorna Wanstall00:26

Doc probably because he was the last true Lancastrian and that he was related to H6 by way of.

Lauren Johnson00:27

Doc, throughout H7's reign - in 1490s there was a big hoo ha about reburying Henry at Westminster Abbey, in part coz it was hoped he'd be canonised and that would bring the abbey lotsa money.

RealTudorLady00:27

The cult of King Henry as a popular martyr and saint was very big and many miracles happened, including a hanged man coming from the dead. One of the reasons he was moved to Windsor by Richard III was because of his cult

Lauren Johnson00:27

Lorna's definitely right - H7 made a huge amount of his relation to H6. I think that's been under-estimated in his story. (As I'm currently working on a biog of Margaret Beaufort, I've been re-evaluating H7.)

Lauren Johnson00:28

+300 miracles were reported in the 20 years after Henry VI's death. Not bad, eh?

Ceri Creffield00:28

Lauren, is there any reason to doubt that Prince Edward was Henry's real son? or was it just a hatchet job on ~Margaret of A?

Lauren Johnson00:29

Ceri, I vote hatchet job. The rumours don't emerge AT ALL until late 1450s when Margaret has become the effective leader of Lancastrian party & the Yorkists are moving to take the crown

Claire Ridgway00:30

And what on earth was going on with him and Margaret. Did he really not know how to do the deed?

Doc Clark00:30

Given that Margaret Beaufort's pushing the cult of the holy name was successful and got the blessing of Pope Alexander (Rodrigo Borgia), it's somewhat jaw dropping that H6 didn't get canonized.

Lorna Wanstall00:31

Claire, it sounds daft, but perhaps 6 had no sexual attraction for Margaret

Lauren Johnson00:31

Claire, I really think he didn't. He was famously virginal & chaste before marriage, and there's evidence of his councillors being in his most private bedchambers when he was supposed to be having sex with the queen - I think to tell him what to do after years of failure!

Rozsa00:32

Perhaps Borgia felt she didn't drop money in enough of the right pockets.

Bill Wolff00:32

Oh, I want in on that blog, Lauren!

Lauren Johnson00:32

Lorna, that's possible. He was not all that worldly. I think he also had real hang ups about chastity coz H5 was also famously chaste, and that was one way H6 could emulate his father.

Lorna Wanstall00:32

Margaret comes across as very headstrong to me, and perhaps H6 didn't like that in a woman

Claire Ridgway00:32

Thank you!

Doc Clark00:33

Margaret Beaufort certainly did grease Borgia's....er, um, make lots of donations to holy causes....

Lorna Wanstall00:33

Lauren do you think H6 would have been any different had his father lived.

Rozsa00:33

Hah! Margaret had the means and was a practical lady.

Lauren Johnson00:33

Lorna, I agree Margaret's headstrong post-1453 but when she 1st came to England she was 15, and for many years she was clearly in the shadow of Henry and his advisors like the Duke of Suffolk (a father figure, basically).

Lauren Johnson00:34

Bill, the Margaret Beaufort bio should be out early 2021 - there's another fascinating C15th figure!

Michal Schick00:34

H6's not having any mistresses probably correlates with a really prolonged sexual innocence. Shades of what was going on with Louis and Marie Antoinette, at least at first?

Ceri Creffield00:35

I suppose had Henry V lived, Henry VI would have had his mother around and possibly siblings - that must have changed him.

RealTudorLady00:35

Why didn't Suffolk et al negotiate a more profitable marriage in France? Renee of Anjou was a poor relation.

Doc Clark00:35

I think Margaret of Anjou is one of the more maligned women in history. She stood up for herself and her family and took heat for it.

Lauren Johnson00:35

Michal, yes I think so. Henry V & VI were unusually sexually continent for Lancastrians - most of H5's brothers & uncles had illegitimate children.

Lorna Wanstall00:35

Another book to look out for Lauren.. all good

Ceri Creffield00:36

That should be worth reading Lauren.

Lauren Johnson00:36

Doc, couldn't agree more! MofA has suffered enormously from historical misogyny and Shakespeare (who makes her a terrific villain, but thereby erodes the reality of the historical Margaret)

Michal Schick00:36

VIII made up for it, clearly 😊

Rozsa00:36

VIII takes the cake for terrific villainhood.

Georgia Cosenza00:36

Hi Doc. Didn't the Borgia pope reign (and die) much earlier?

Lauren Johnson00:36

RTL, Suffolk considered one of Charles VII's daughters but by 1444 Henry was in his early 20s and had no bros/ cousins - England badly needed an heir and MofA seemed the right lady for the job.

RealTudorLady00:37

Cheers.

Doc Clark00:37

There hasn't been a really meaty bio of Margaret Beaufort since Jones and Underwood. I will look forward to yours, Lauren

Lorna Wanstall00:37

Rozsa H8 is a git, and that putting it mildly for me.

Lauren Johnson00:37

Georgia, Rodrigo Borgia (Alex VI) was pope 1502-1503, so crossed over with Henry VII

Lauren Johnson00:38



Lorna, you're damn right. H8 is a total blister.

Rozsa00:38

Rodrigo Borgia died in 1503. Poisoned by his "friends." Payback time.

Michal Schick00:38

I'm doing an "HVIII sucks! HVIII sucks!" chant alone in my room

Georgia Cosenza00:38

Ah yes, my mistake. Sorry.

Doc Clark00:38

Borgia was pope from 1491(2?) to 1503

Doc Clark00:39

so he overlaps H7's reign

Rozsa00:39

I'm with you Michal. I will toss my cookies next time I see another image of his broad meaty face. Henry VII was much more refined.

Doc Clark00:39

is there an echo in here?

Lauren Johnson00:39

I'd love to know from you guys if there are questions about Margaret Beaufort that you'd like answered. I'm knee deep in research but it's great to find out what people are actually interested in when writing up!

RealTudorLady00:39

Aye, Doc but he wasn't the first Borgia although he's the most notorious.

Doc Clark00:40

Yes, Pope Sixtus was also a Borgia and built the Sistine Chapel

Lorna Wanstall00:40

Michal ha ha. If we could only travel though time hey.. Poor Henry would have more than rude names thrown at him.

Rozsa00:40

Lorna, I cannot wait to discover what a git is, but I'm sure I agree.

Bill Wolff00:40

I love the time MB was married to T Stanley!

Lorna Wanstall00:41

Git, means a cad, a bounder a rotter etc.

Lauren Johnson00:41

Bill, me too - it's so interesting and yet maddening because there are so few personal documents for that era. There are stacks of household accounts from her marriage to Harry Stafford and almost none for most of her marriage to Stanley before 1485

RealTudorLady00:41

Now Margaret B, what a woman!

Michal Schick00:41

Margaret Beaufort was the one who had her first baby at 13? If so, my question is... how did she survive that??

Rozsa00:41

I don't understand her relationship with husband Thomas Stanley. Was it purely mutually aligned interests?

Lauren Johnson00:42

Michal, she almost didn't. I think it profoundly traumatised her and probably physically damaged her - she never has any more children and her own confessor mentions how under sized she was when she gave birth.

Michal Schick00:42

Oof. That's just awful, and to think she was lucky.

Lorna Wanstall00:42

Michal yes indeed, Margaret had a really bad time of it in childbirth and I believe she nearly died. She didn't conceive again

Ceri Creffield00:42

I'm quite curious about how Margaret B felt about passing her right to the throne over to her son. I mean, although it was a willing decision, she still signed herself Margaret R afterwards, so she certainly felt royal.

Lauren Johnson00:42

Rozsa, that's the million dollar question! I suspect yes, and I also think there were some serious faultlines in the marriage by 1483

Rozsa00:43

I am enjoying Judith Arnopp

RealTudorLady00:43

Margaret was very savvy to marry Tom Stanley as he was in the service of Edward iv and she hoped he could help her get her son home.

Doc Clark00:43

Anything you have on how Collyweston was run and where people where lodged and fed is a prime interest of mine regarding MARGaret Beaufort - that and her relationships with her St. John relations ... but I can wait until you publish. It's just that it's relevant to the biography of Henry Parker, Lord Morley that I'm trying to get finished

Roland Hui00:43

Was there any actual documentation that H6 was held in the Wakefield Tower (in the Tower of London) where he was supposedly murdered, or was that just a tradition that came from who-knows-where?

Bill Wolff00:43

MB and 13 year old sex? A wife did what she was told!

Rozsa00:43

I am enjoying Judith Arnopp's book The Beaufort Woman. It doesn't answer all the questions, but I can't put it down.

Lorna Wanstall00:43

Ceri, back then boys were preferred to girls

Ceri Creffield00:44

Well yes, obviously but his right came via her.

Lorna Wanstall00:44

Bill I believe girls had to be 15 before they had sex.

Lauren Johnson00:45

Doc, would love to hear more about your Parker work! Rachel Delman at York Uni recently completed a PhD looking at Collyweston, so you should definitely tap her up for research.

Michal Schick00:45

(Fiction idea: All of the overlooked royal woman of history who had to pass their claims on to men without ever ruling themselves get together in a room and drink wine.)

Bill Wolff00:45

Lorna, not MB.

Doc Clark00:46

OOOOOOOOO! I will look that dissertation up! Thank you!

Rozsa00:46

In 15th-16th century France girls were marriageable from age 12 onwards, boys from age 14.

Lauren Johnson00:47

Roland, re Wakefield. Nope. I couldn't find any reference to Wakefield specifically being the location before C19th (which is when a lot of the Tower myths ossify into 'fact' 😊)

Georgia Cosenza00:47

I would love a book on MB. I think that she was far more influential in the direction the Tudor dynasty took than some realize

Lorna Wanstall00:47

Bill Yes I know, but I believe it was frowned upon by the church if a girl had sex before 15.

Lauren Johnson00:47

Rosza, same in England - canon law said consent to marriage and sex was age 12. But marriages did happen earlier. Even at the time, Edmund Tudor's decision to get his child-wife pregnant was highly dubious.

RealTudorLady00:48

Margaret B, Margaret of Anjou, Elizabeth Wydeville, all three were women fighting for their children and their rights as they saw it. It was hard for women then, even royal ones and if you were disinherited or defeated in war you had to fight tooth and nail. You had to scratch a bit as well.

Doc Clark00:48

Lauren, shoot me your email to [data4doc@hushmail.com](mailto:data4doc@hushmail.com) and I'll send you the draft chapters that cover Harry Parker, Alice St John and MARGaret Beaufort

Ceri Creffield00:48

Generally sex depended on when the girl started her periods, didn't it?

Lauren Johnson00:48

Doc, done!

Rozsa00:49

Yes, I heard Edmund caught much flack for it. As he should have. I'm impressed that MB didn't let not being able to bear more children prevent her from marrying well again and again. Well done, Lady B.

Georgia Cosenza00:49

Cerise's, I didn't know that she signed as Margaret R. Interesting.

Bill Wolff00:49

RTL, Yes I agree, and on reason MB and M Pole are heroines of mine.

Lauren Johnson00:49

Ceri, implicitly yes - I'm not aware of anyone explicitly saying that but I'm sure there'll be a reference somewhere. In other cases of child brides it's quite common for people to insist sex doesn't happen until 14-16 though, especially if a bride is sickly/ small

Lorna Wanstall00:49

Ceri I believe a girl had to have 2 full courses (periods) before they were considered sexually mature.

Lorna Wanstall00:50

Bill yes Margaret Pole is a very fascinating woman as well

Doc Clark00:50

Lauren, What do you think of the theory that John Beaufort, Duke of Somerset committed suicide?

Lauren Johnson00:51

Re. "Margaret R." It's an interesting one - until 1485 (where I'm up to in my research) she used "M Richmond" as her signature. I need to find out the moment it switches. I suspect it's another way to assert the dynasty's control!

Rozsa00:51

Amazing that MB had a will of steel having a father who doffed himself.

Lorna Wanstall00:51

Bill M Pole's death is just another reason to why I hate H8 so much.

Lauren Johnson00:52

Doc, I think it's plausible. Crowland Chronicle is among those who report this rumour and they are neighbours of John's so in a good position to know - albeit they have a fractious relationship, squabbling over land so might want to malign him?

Bill Wolff00:52

Lorna, I'm with you, but I understand the reasoning.

RealTudorLady00:53

I don't believe John Beaufort killed himself, it's another attack on one side by the other.

Rozsa00:53

What do you think happened to John Beaufort, RTL?

Lauren Johnson00:53

RTL, he was quite a troubled man though - interesting that both he and H7 (his grandson) endured over a decade in exile on the Continent for political reasons. It made both of them paranoid & secretive!

RealTudorLady00:54

I really don't know, it's a gut feeling, sorry.

Lauren Johnson00:54

To be fair, John did have a long term illness the year before so there might be a simpler reason. But Margaret must have heard these rumours, and I think that's important to her development too.

Lauren Johnson00:55

All these men dying on MB - no wonder she was so worried about Henry Tudor!

Lorna Wanstall00:55

I don't thin J B killed himself, he would have known that his death at his own hands would have left a terrible stigma on his family.

Ceri Creffield00:55

It's amazing how devoted she was to him, considering how little she saw of him for so many years!

Ceri Creffield00:56

Henry VII I mean.

Laurie Duerr00:56

And she really held strong to her "feeling" that he could be king one day!

Lauren Johnson00:56

Yes, I think because Henry was her only child and dynasty was so intrinsic to noble people in C15th.

RealTudorLady00:56

At least Henry Tudor had the fortune of going into exile with Jasper Tudor so he could return when the time was right. The Beaufort males were all killed.

Lorna Wanstall00:56

Lauren yes, losing her first husband before she really even got to know him properly I think affected her

Rozsa00:56

I am so impressed by the resilience of the tiny MB. No close relationship to her parents, her son ripped away from her, yet she is quite the survivor as well as a canny political operator. Write that biography LJ, so the world gives her her due.

Lauren Johnson00:56

Laurie, I think Margaret didn't believe Henry would be king until the unique circumstances of 1483 made it seem the best way to get him back. Before that, I think she just wanted him home and restored as earl of Richmond.

Lauren Johnson00:57

Thanks Rosza, will do!

Laurie Duerr00:57

Ah, good point Lauren!

Ceri Creffield00:57

Lauren, do you think it was all these deaths which lead her to become so pious?

Lauren Johnson00:57

(Although I would add, MB was pretty close to her mother, who only died in 1482.)

Doc Clark00:57

Think of how different the world might have been if Edward 4 had allowed Henry Tudor to return home and inherit the honor of Richmond?

Claire Ridgway00:58

Thank you so much, Lauren, for your time this evening. It's been a wonderful chat. Thank you everyone too. The winner of Lauren's book Shadow King is Michal. Congrats Michal!

Lauren Johnson00:58

Ceri, yes - although I don't think she was unusual in that. Piety was one of the few ways noblewomen could exercise their independent power respectably.

Michal Schick00:58

Oh yay! I can't wait to dive in!

Lauren Johnson00:58

Congratulations Michal - hope you enjoy it! And thanks all for the chat. This has been great. x

RealTudorLady00:58

Congratulations Michael.

Rozsa00:58

Judith Arnopp makes a very different point in her Beaufort Chronicle. Says MB was not close to her mother at all and felt she had been sold as a child-bride by her.

Bill Wolff00:58

Wonderful chat, all, thanks Lauren!!

Doc Clark00:58

Thank you for the wonderful chat Lauren

Laurie Duerr00:58

Thank you Lauren! Thanks Claire!

Michal Schick00:59

Thank you all! (First time chatting, and this was awesome!)

Claire Ridgway00:59

Thank you everyone for coming. It's been a wonderful hour.

Rozsa00:59

Thk you, Lauren, Claire, et all. Merci mille fois!

Lorna Wanstall00:59

Doc but I also think Henry Tudor would always have to live with one eye cocked over his shoulder if he had. One hint of Lancastrian revolt and Henry would lose his head.

Ceri Creffield01:00

Thanks Lauren. Congratulations Michel.

RealTudorLady01:00

Thanks Lauren, that was very informative. Thanks Claire for hosting.

Claire Ridgway01:00

Good night everyone and thank you again to Lauren.

Ceri Creffield01:00

Good night all.

Lorna Wanstall01:00

Hapy reading Michal..

Lorna Wanstall01:01

Thank you Lauren, please feel free to pop into our forum and make a comment on any post that tickles your fancy

RealTudorLady01:01

I could stay and chat all night but that hour change has rattled my brain. Night all.