

I. Bosworth and Gardners

The recent discovery of the remains of Richard III has opened up several lines of research and allowed discussion of historical events occurring during this time period. Some of these events may relate to the Gardner families. David T. Gardner provides an overview of his research findings surrounding the Battle of Bosworth and how those events relate to the Gardner Family.

A. Introduction

I have now spent several years looking into the life of the Gardiner family of central London and their relation to events surrounding Richard III. It never ceases to amaze me how much of our combined family histories have just been lost to the ravages of time. From then to our current time, the summation of human knowledge has doubled approximately every six months. Questions with no answer have been asked through this time; now, with technology and the passage of time, those same questions can be asked again and, hopefully, answered in the 21st century. Modern facilities have allowed us to now do some reconstruction of the lives of some of our amazing family members who we once thought to be lost.

B. Commentary

The Gardyner family of central London appears to have played a much more significant role in the events surrounding Richard III than was once thought. Sir William Gardyner, who was far from being an unlikely out of place skinner on the battlefield at Market Bosworth, was a son-in-law of Jasper Tudor. The stories of Richard III's death in August 1485 in a field just south of Market Bosworth are well known. What was not known? Several things: the more complex relationships with the Gardiner family and major players of the battle as well as the family's early connections to the Royal Family prior to the rise of Bishop Stephen Gardiner, Lord Chancellor of England.

What we know about Sir William Gardyner who was found with Richard III's crown at the battle of Bosworth has taken some very interesting twists and turns. We have uncovered previously unknown connections. Information unpublished in modern times and some little known facts support our story of Sir William Gardyner and the family's larger role in the English Civil War. As well, the Gardiner family's rise to power as part of the Tudor Dynasty is becoming clearer.

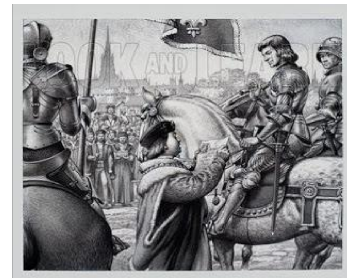


Figure 1 King Henry VII –
Alderman Richard Gardyner

C. New Information

Sir Richard Gardyner, Sheriff, Mayor, Alderman and Father of the City of London, was chosen as the official representative of the city of London. The Alderman and Common Council directed celebrations to welcome the new King to the City. Alderman Gardiner rode out of London to meet Henry Tudor before he arrived in the city. The Alderman joined the King's procession as it entered the city walls.

This supports my own position that it was Alderman Gardyner directing the logistics of Henry VII's theater of operations in England.

Alderman Richard Gardiner's widow, Audrey Cotton, William Gardiner's sister-in-law, married Henry's right wing commander at Battle of Bosworth, Sir Gilbert Talbot, some years after the Alderman's death. Only William Gardyner, Sir Gilbert Talbot, Rhys ap Thomas and Humphrey

Stanley were knighted on the field of Battle. The Stanley Brothers were not honored after the battle. The connection of Henry and Jasper, as well as Army Commander Earl of Oxford and the Army's Right Wing Commander Sir Gilbert Talbot, to Richard Gardyner and William Gardyner is significant. This puts Sir William Gardyner not only as Jasper Tudor's son in law. It has Sir Wyllyam Gardyner in the right place, right time and right circumstance to have been the man who dealt the mortal blow to Richard III on the Battlefield at Market Bosworth in 1485.

If the deed were measured by treasure and the continued trust of both HRH King Henry VII and Henry VIII, one could surmise Sir William Gardyner was indeed the man who dealt the mortal blow. Henry gave Rhys ap Thomas and Humphrey Stanley some land. The King entrusted Thomas Gardiner King's Chaplain, the son of Sir William Gardiner, with not only his own mortal soul but the souls of his family and Heir apparent. And, Henry elevated other members of the Gardiner family to the one of the most powerful and influential positions as Lord Chancellor of England.



Figure 2 Henry Tudor Crowned,
Battle of Bosworth 1485



This endenture made bitwene oure Souerayne Lorde the Kyng,

Kyng Henry the VIIth, on that one part, And Richard Gardyner, Citezein and Aldreman of Londone, one that other part, Witnesseth that oure said souerayne lorde hath receyved of the said Richard Gardyner, the day of making of these presentes, a Salte of Golde with a Cover stondyng vpon a morene garnyshed with perles and precious stones, the whiche salte was sumtyme belongyng to Richard, late in deed and nat in righte kyng of England, and delyuered to the said Richard Gardyner by oone William Dabeney, late Clerke of the Jewelles of the said late pretended kyng in plegge for lxxvj. li. xiiij. s. iiij. d., thee which somme the said late kyng borrowed of the said Richard Gardyner: And where also as the said late pretended kyng borrowed of the Mayre and Aldremene of the said Citie of London that tyme beyng the somine of xxiiij.c. li. that is to sey of euery of the said Aldremene that tyme beyng c.li.: And for suretie and contentacione of the said xxiiij.c. li. the said late pretended kyng leide in plegge to the said Maire and Aldremene a Coronalle of golde garnysshed withe precious stones and many other grete and riche Jewelles, as by a bille endented bitwene the said Maire and Aldremene on that one part and the said William Dabeney than Clerk of the Jewelles of the said late pretended kyng on that other part ther of made more playnly it dothe appier: And forasmoche as the said xxiiij.c. li. is not yet content and paide to the said Mayre and Aldremene, all the same Jewelles yet remayne in the keypyng of the said Mayre and Aldremen, Of the whiche Aldremene the said Richard Gardyner is and at the tyme of the lendyng of the said xxiiij.c. li. was one, and lente his c. li. to the said late kyng, as other of his brethrene than did, as in the said bille endented appiereth: The said Richard Gardyner aknowelechethe hym by these presentes to be fully satisfied, content, and paide by oure said souerayne lorde the Kyng that nowe is, of his said c. li., late as is above said by hym lent, and therof dischargethe his grace and all other for euer. In wisse wherof to that one part of this endenture remaynyng with the said Richard Gardyner oure said souerayne lorde hath sette his Signet

and signed it with his hande, And to that other part of the same endenture remaynyng in the keypyng of our said souerayne lorde the said Richard Gardyner hath sette his sealle. Yoven the xxijth day of Nouembre, The ffirst yere of the Reigne of oure said Souerayne Lorde.



We find payments from both HRH King Henry 7th and John de Vere 13th Earl of Oxford to Alderman Richard Gardyner that look as if to be reimbursements for expenses the Alderman incurred while handling the logistics of Henry's and Jasper's Army prior to the Army's arrival in England. However, these payments seemed to use the recovery of crown jewels pawned by Richard III as a way to disguise the arrangement. The payments in the case of The Earl of Oxford are noted as off-the-book, un-categorized payments and are unlike anything researchers had encountered before.

1485, 8 Dec. Hen. VII. —Provisional grant by John, Earl of Oxynford, to Richard Gardyner of the wardship, &c. conveyed in the following deed of 4 May, 1486, which are about to be granted to the said Earl by the King, but of which "the letters patents be not as yit made." Seal nearly perfect. (In a small box.)



1485, 8th of December, Henry VII. —And is a deed by which John Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain of England, agrees to assign to Richard Gardyner, the wardship and marriage of Giles, son and heir of William Allington, of Horseheath, in Cambridgeshire, as soon as the letters patent, granting this and other wardships to the earl, were passed, and in the meanwhile transfers to him all profits and rights over the estates of Giles Allington. The second deed is the formal assignment of the wardship in question, and bears date 4th of May, 1st Henry VII. (1486), and by it he grants him all the rights without any payments to the king or himself,

"Except Only That Richard Gardyner Had Paid Me Beforehande"

These two documents both have appended to them mutilated impressions of the same large and fine seal with the earl's heraldic achievements, and the inscription which, when complete was,

Sigilum Joh'is de Vere comitis Oxonie.

John de Vere was the thirteenth Earl of Oxforde; he was restored to the family honours in 1464, attained in 1474, and finally restored in 1485. He was elevated to Lord Great Chamberlain of England.

Most are unaware of the significance of the above document. Giles Alington, son of Richard III's slain vanguard soldier, Sir William Alington, and the now the Alderman's ward, married Alderman Gardiner's daughter, Mary. Notable descendants of Sir Giles Alington and Lady Mary Gardiner include HRH Charles, Prince of Wales, as well as the Prince's first wife, the late Lady Diana Spencer.

D. Continuing work

Moving forward in this series, we will explore the life of Sir William Gardiner's and Lady Ellen Tudor's only son, Thomas Gardiner, King's Chaplain, Son and Heir, Chamberlain of Westminster Abbey.

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Notes:

David T Gardner is a descendant of the Gardner family who arrived from Purton, Wiltshire to West Jersey, now Philadelphia, in 1682. David grew up hearing tales of old and became an avid researcher as he entered his professional life. David's work aligns with the emphasis on "All things Gardner" of Gardner Research (thomasgardnersociety.org) and has graciously provided material and discussion related to research of whence Thomas Gardner and Margaret Fryer. David can be reached by email at gardnerflorida@gmail.com or via his blog at wyllyam.kingslayerscourt.com