

Close maternal-line relatives of Richard III

Historical accounts record Richard III as having one shoulder higher than the other; sustaining battle injuries and being killed at the Battle of Bosworth; and as being brought back to Leicester and subsequently buried in the choir of the church of the Grey Friars. However, despite there being no record of any of the above being attributed to any of Richard's relatives, could there be any chance that the burial is actually that of a female-line relative of Richard III of the right age, who also suffered a spinal abnormality, who died at the Battle of Bosworth, who would therefore also show evidence of battle injuries, who was brought back to Leicester and buried in the choir of the church of the Grey Friars in Leicester and carry the same mtDNA type?

In order to attempt to answer this question, the inheritance of Richard's mtDNA was traced for seven generations, from his maternal great-great-grandmother down and out through his network of cousins, identifying any males who would have been alive at the time of Bosworth and who might be candidates for the skeleton in the site of the Grey Friars. It is not possible to trace the line further back than this, as the identity of his maternal great-great-grandmother is unknown. A summary of this genealogy is given below. In order to simplify the genealogical information, every individual in the overall tree has been assigned a unique number. Additionally, the overall tree has been broken down into a series of component family sub-trees. Females carrying the mtDNA who married and passed this on to children of their own will appear in two family sub-trees, as daughter in the first, then as mother in the second. The descent from sons is not included since, obviously, they cannot pass on the mtDNA. Spouses marrying into the network are included where appropriate, but since these do not carry the mtDNA their identification number is ~~struck through~~. Males carrying the same mtDNA type as Richard, but NOT at risk of being confused with the skeleton in the Grey Friars friary (as either already dead, known to have survived beyond Bosworth, or alive at the time of Bosworth but clearly too old or too young) have their identification number in **bold**.

This lineage was reconstructed using a wide variety of documentary sources (see covering note on genealogical research above).

Tree 1

The name of Richard III's great-great-grandmother [1] is uncertain. She was the wife of Sir Payne Roët of Guienne (or Paon de Roët) [2]. They had three daughters:

[3] Isabel (Isabelle) became a nun (Canoness of the Convent of St Waudru, Mons) and died childless.

[4] Phillippa (c.1346-c.1387) married the poet Geoffrey Chaucer [6] when aged about 10. Details of offspring [7-10] are shown below, Tree 2.

[5] Katherine (c.1350-1403), Richard's great-grandmother, who married first Sir Hugh Swynford (c.1366-) [11], and second, as third wife, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster (-1399) [12], son of Edward III and father of Henry IV (from his first wife Blanche). Details of offspring [13-19] are shown below, Tree 3.

Tree 2

Phillippa de Roët [4] is recorded as having up to four children, although some suggest only three. It is also possible that some (or all) of these children were actually fathered by John of Gaunt [12] rather than her husband, Geoffrey [6]²⁴⁻²⁶. All four children are believed to have died childless, the Chaucer

family having died out by the 15th century.

[7] Elizabeth (c.1364-), a nun in Barking Abbey.

[8] Thomas (c.1367-)

[9] Agnes, a lady in waiting at Henry IV's coronation in 1399.

[10] Lewis (c.1381-) (Possibly not their child.)

Tree 3

Katherine de Roët [5] had seven children from her two husbands, three with Hugh Swynford [~~11~~] and four with John of Gaunt [~~12~~] (all born out of wedlock, but subsequently legitimated by charter under Richard II, 1397):

[13] Blanche (1367-1369)

[14] Thomas (1368-1432)

[15] Margaret (c.1369-) became a nun and died childless.

[16] John Beaufort (1373-1410), 1st Earl of Somerset, Marquis of Dorset and Lord High Admiral of England.

[17] Henry Beaufort (c.1374-1447), Bishop of Winchester and Cardinal, Lord Chancellor.

[18] Thomas Beaufort (c.1377-1426), 1st Duke of Exeter.

[19] Joan Beaufort (c.1379-1440), who married, first, Sir Robert Ferrers [~~20~~], 5th Baron Botcher of Wem in 1391 and, second, Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland [~~21~~]. Details of offspring [22-37] are shown below, Tree 4.

Tree 4

Joan Beaufort [19], Richard's grandmother, had sixteen children, two daughters by her first husband, Robert Ferrers [~~20~~], and five daughters and nine sons by her second husband, Ralph Neville [~~21~~], as follows:

[22] Elizabeth Ferrers (1393-1434), who married John de Greystoke [~~38~~], 4th Baron Greystoke (1389-1436), in 1407. Details of offspring [39-50] are shown below, Tree 5.

[23] Margaret Ferrers (1394-1458), who married Ralph Neville [~~51~~] (-1458) in c.1413. The marriage is recorded as resulting in only one son, John Neville [~~52~~] of Oversley (c.1416-1482), Sheriff for Lincolnshire.

[24] Katherine Neville, (c.1400-c.1484) married four times: to John de Mowbray, 2nd Duke of Norfolk [~~53~~]; Thomas Strangeways [~~54~~], John, Viscount Beaumont; and John Woodville. Details of offspring [55-57] are shown below, Tree 6.

[25] Eleanor Neville, (-1472), who married first, Richard le Despenser [~~58~~], 4th Baron Burghersh, and had no issue, and second, Henry Percy [~~59~~], 2nd Earl of Northumberland. Details of offspring [60-69] are shown below, Tree 7.

[26] Richard Neville (1400-1460), 5th Earl of Salisbury.

[27] Robert Neville (-1457)

[28] William Neville (-1463), 1st Earl of Kent.

[29] Anne Neville, who married Humphrey Stafford [70], 6th Earl of Stafford and 1st Duke of Buckingham (1402-1460), who died at the Battle of Northampton. Details of offspring [71-80] are shown below, Tree 8.

[30] Edward Neville (-1476)

[31] Cecily Neville (1415-1495), mother of Edward IV [86] and Richard III [93], married Richard Plantagenet [84] (-1460), 3rd Duke of York, Protector of England, died at the Battle of Wakefield. Details of offspring [82-94] are shown below, Tree 9.

[32] George Neville (-1469)

[33] Joan Neville, died childless.

[34] John Neville, died young.

[35] Cuthbert Neville, died young.

[36] Thomas Neville, died young.

[37] Henry Neville, died young.

Tree 5

Elizabeth Ferrers [22] had six sons and six daughters from her marriage with John de Greystoke [38], 4th Baron Greystoke (c.1389-1436), as follows:

[39] Richard, died without issue before his father.

[40] Henry, died without issue before his father.

[41] William, died without issue before his father.

[42] Ralph, (-1487) Baron Greystoke, buried in Kirkham Monastery.

[43] Joan (1408-1456). Married, first, John Darcy [95] 7th Baron Darcy of Knaith (succeeding his brother Philip), and second, William Stoke [96]. Details of offspring [97-104] are shown below Tree 10.

[44] Anne (-1477). Married in 1432 to Ralph Bigod [106] of Settrington, who died at Battle of Towton. Details of offspring [107-112] are shown below, Tree 11.

[45] Thomas, died unmarried before 1487 (as brother Ralph succeeded by grand-daughter).

[46] Eleanor, married Ralph Eure [115]. Details of offspring [116-127] are shown below, Tree 12.

[47] John, died unmarried before 1487 (as brother Ralph succeeded by grand-daughter).

[48] Catherine, became a nun and died unmarried.

[49] Matilda, died unmarried.

[50] Elizabeth (1428-). Married Roger Thornton [~~128~~] in 1440. Details of offspring [129-130] are shown below, Tree 13.

Tree 6

Katherine Neville [24] had one son from her first marriage to John de Mowbray [~~53~~] and two daughters from her marriage to Thomas Strangeways [54], as follows:

[55] John de Mowbray (-1461), 3rd Duke of Norfolk.

[56] Joan Strangeways, who married William Willoughby [~~131~~], with whom she had a daughter, Cecily [132], who married Edward Sutton [158], 2nd Baron Dudley, but had no children born prior to Bosworth.

[57] Catherine Strangeways, who married Henry Grey [~~133~~], 4th Baron of Codnor, yet remained childless.

Tree 7

Eleanor Neville [25] married, first, Richard le Despenser [~~58~~], 4th Baron Burghersh (1396-1414), yet this young marriage was childless. Her second marriage to Henry Percy [59], 2nd Earl of Northumberland (1393-1455), produced seven sons and three daughters, as follows:

[60] John (1418-), died before his father (pre-Bosworth).

[61] Henry (1421-1461), 3rd Earl of Northumberland, died at the Battle of Towton. His son, Henry 4th Earl of Northumberland (who would not have shared mtDNA with Richard III), led troops at Bosworth in the Yorkist cause, but failed to engage. After Bosworth he was imprisoned by Henry VII, but subsequently released and allowed to retain his titles and land.

[62] Thomas (1433-1460), 1st Baron Egremont, died at Battle of Northampton.

[63] Katherine (1423-1475), married Edmund Grey [134], 1st Earl of Kent (1416-1490). Details of offspring [135-138] are shown below, Tree 13.

[64] George (1424-1474).

[65] Ralph (1425-1464), died at Battle of Hedgeley Moor.

[66] Richard (1427-1461), died at Battle of Towton.

[67] William (1428-1462)

[68] Anne, died unmarried.

[69] Joan, died unmarried.

Tree 8

Anne Neville [29] had six sons, two of whom were twins, and four daughters through her marriage with Humphrey Stafford [70], 6th Earl of Stafford/1st Duke of Buckingham, as follows:

[71] Humphrey (1425-1458), 7th Earl of Stafford. Married Margaret Beaufort (daughter of the 2nd Duke of Somerset) and fathered Henry, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, who was instrumental in

persuading Parliament to declare Edward V illegitimate and subsequently offer the throne to Richard III. He later switched his allegiance and rebelled against Richard in favour of Henry Tudor, but the rebellion failed and Buckingham was beheaded for treason in 1483. His widow, Catherine, subsequently married Jasper Tudor.

[72] Henry (c.1425-71). Married Margaret Beaufort (daughter of the 1st Duke of Somerset), as Margaret's third husband. She had previously married John de la Pole [~~149~~] (subsequently the 2nd Duke of Suffolk) at a very early age yet the marriage was dissolved before she reached the age of twelve. Her second marriage was to Edmund Tudor, 1st Earl of Richmond, with whom she had Henry Tudor (later Henry VII). Her fourth marriage, following Henry Stafford's death was with Thomas Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby.

[73] John (1427-1473), 1st Earl of Wiltshire.

[74] Edward, died young.

[75] Margaret (1435-1475). Married Sir Robert Dunham [~~139~~] (1430-) with whom she had a son, Sir John Dunham [140] (1450-1524), who was knighted by Henry VII at the Battle of Blackheath in 1497.

[76] Catherine (1437-1476). Married John Talbot [~~141~~], 3rd Earl of Shrewsbury, 3rd Earl of Waterford, 12th Baron Strange of Blackmore (1448-1473). Details of offspring [142-144] are shown below, Tree 15.

[77] George (1439-), twin of below, died young.

[78] William (1439-), twin of above, died young.

[70] Joan (1442-1484), not known to have married.

[80] Anne (1446-1472), not known to have married.

Tree 9

Cecily Neville [31] married Richard Plantagenet [~~81~~], 3rd Duke of York and had thirteen children as follows:

[82] Henry (1438-c.1440)

[83] Anne of York (1439-1476), married, first, Henry Holland [145], 3rd Duke of Exeter, by whom she had a single daughter, Anne [147] who died without issue. Secondly, she married Sir Thomas St Leger [146], by whom she has a single daughter, Anne St Leger [148], Baroness de Rous, all of whose male children with George Manners were born after the battle of Bosworth. Anne St Leger's daughter, Katherine, is the common maternal ancestor of the two living individuals (Michael Ibsen and Wendy Duldig) from whom DNA samples were taken.

[84] Henry (1441-) died in infancy.

[85] Edward (1442-1483), Duke of York, later Edward IV.

[86] Edmund (1443-1460), Earl of Rutland, died at the Battle of Wakefield.

[87] Elizabeth (1444-1503). Married John de la Pole [~~149~~], 2nd Duke of Suffolk. Details of offspring [150-160] are shown below, Tree 16.

- [88] Margaret (1446-1503). Married Charles I [~~161~~], Duke of Burgundy (the Bold) and died childless.
- [89] William (1447-) died young.
- [90] John (1448-) died young.
- [91] George (1449-1478), 1st Duke of Clarence.
- [92] Thomas (1451-) died young.
- [93] Richard (1452-1485), Duke of Gloucester, later Richard III.
- [94] Ursula (1455-) died young.

Tree 10

Joan Greystoke [43] is believed to have had five sons and three daughters with her first husband John Darcy [95], 7th Baron Darcy of Knaith, of Temple Hurst, Yorkshire, as follows. She married, secondly, William Stoke [96] in 1458, yet had no further children :

- [97] Richard (1424-1458), married Eleanor Scrope.
- [98] John (c.1426-1461)
- [99] George, died young, unmarried.
- [100] Elizabeth, died young, unmarried.
- [101] Thomas, died young, unmarried.
- [102] Philip, died young, unmarried.
- [103] Jane. Married John Beaumont [~~105~~]. Details relating to this marriage are unclear, see Tree 17, are shown below.
- [104] Eleanor, died young, unmarried.

Tree 11

Anne Greystoke [44] married Ralph Bigod [~~106~~] of Settrington in 1432 and had six children, two sons and four daughters, as are shown below.

- [107] John (of Settrington), died at Battle of Towton, 1461.
- [108] Thomas (c.1435-). Death unknown, but too old to be a skeleton at The Grey Friars friary.
- [109] Anne, believed to have died young.
- [110] Catherine (c.1439-). Death unknown, believed to have been unmarried.
- [111] Matilda (c.1440-). Death unknown, believed to have been unmarried.
- [112] Agnes, who married Thomas Stillington [~~113~~], by whom she had a daughter, Catherine [114], whose own sons all died after Bosworth.

However, note that some web-based genealogies record Anne and Ralph as having fifteen children. Yet the Visitation of Yorkshire 1584/85 attributes Ralph Bigod (of Scagglethorphe, next to Settrington) as having nine children through a marriage to Margaret Plumpton (daughter of Sir Robert Plumpton) through whom the line descended. This is presumably either a second marriage or a different Ralph Bigod. None of the children from the second family would have carried the same mtDNA as Richard III.

Tree 12

Eleanor (Ellinor) Greystoke [46], married Ralph Eure [115] in 1440 and had seven sons and five daughters, as follows. (Although some accounts suggest six of each, the confusion arises because it is not entirely clear if they had two sons called John (*Johanni*) or two daughters called Joan (*Johanna*)). Ralph Eure was killed at the Battle of Towton in 1461:

[116] Joan (c.1438-) died unmarried.

[117] William (c.1440-1484). Heir to Ralph. Married Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Constable of Hainborough.

[118] Ralph (c.1442-c.1484). Will proved at York, 19 June, 1484.

[119] Elizabeth (c.1444-1481) died before 1484. Married three times. Details of offspring [164-167] are shown below, Tree 18.

[120] Henry (c.1446-) twin of below, died in childhood.

[121] John (c.1446-) twin of below, died in childhood.

[122] Margaret/Margery (c.1448-) unmarried, a nun at Watton.

[123] Robert (c.1450-) was a Knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, details of death unknown.

[124] John (c.1452-c.93) will proved at York, 11 June, 1493, buried at Hutton Bushell.

[125] Anne (c.1454-) recorded as marrying Thomas Rokeby (who fought at the Battle of Bramham Moor), details of any children unclear but would be too young to be confused with the skeleton 1.

[126] Hugh (c.1456-c.1523). Rector of Huggate, and later Brompton in Pickering Lythe. Will proved at York, 16 April, 1523.

[127] Mary (c.1458-) recorded as marrying Hilton (name uncertain) in 1483, details of any children unclear but would be too young to be confused with skeleton 1.

Tree 13

Elizabeth Greystoke [50] married Roger Thornton [128] in 1440 and had two daughters, as follows:

[129] Elizabeth (c.1450-), married George [168] Lord Lumley (c.1444-1507). Details of offspring [169-171] are shown below, Tree 19.

[130] Joan, is given as unmarried in some sources, but also could have married Richard Ogle. Any resulting children would be too young to be confused with skeleton 1.

Tree 14

Katherine Percy [63] married Edmund Grey [~~134~~], 1st Earl of Kent and had two sons and two daughters as follows:

[135] Anthony, married Eleanor, sister of Elizabeth Woodville, wife of Edward IV, and died childless in 1480.

[135] George (1454-1505), 2nd Earl of Kent.

[136] Elizabeth (-1472) married Sir Robert de Greystock [~~172~~] (c.1443-1483) and died without having any sons.

[137] Anne, married John Grey [~~173~~], 8th Baron Grey of Wilton (c.1443-1499). Details of offspring [174-183] are shown below, Tree 20.

Tree 15

Catherine Stafford [76] married John Talbot [~~141~~], 3rd Earl of Shrewsbury, 3rd Earl of Waterford, 12th Baron Strange of Blackmore (1448-1473) and had two sons and a daughter:

[142] George (1468-1528) 4th Earl of Shrewsbury, 4th Earl of Waterford, 10th Baron Talbot, 9th Baron Furnivall (1468-1528). Fought with Henry at Bosworth, as did his uncle and guardian, Sir Gilbert Talbot.

[143] Thomas (1470-) believed to have died young, but too young to be skeleton 1.

[144] Anne (1472-) married Thomas Butler. Any children would have been born post Bosworth.

Tree 16

Elizabeth of York [87] married John de la Pole [~~149~~], 2nd Duke of Suffolk and had seven sons and four daughters:

[150] John de la Pole (c.1462-1487), 1st Earl of Lincoln. Married Lady Margaret FitzAlan who together has a son (Edward) who died young. He was the *de facto* heir to Richard III (his maternal uncle) following Bosworth, yet initially sided with Henry VII. Subsequently he led a short-lived Yorkist rebellion and was defeated and killed at the Battle of Stoke.

[151] Geoffrey (1464-) died young.

[152] Edward (1466-1485) Archdeacon of Richmond.

[153] Elizabeth (c.1468-1489) married Henry Lovel, 8th Baron Morley, yet had no children.

[154] Edmund (1471-1513) 3rd Duke of Suffolk, beheaded by Henry VIII as a Yorkist pretender.

[155] Dorothy (1472-) died young.

[156] Humphrey (1474-1513), a cleric.

[157] Anne (1476-1495) died unmarried, a nun.

[158] Catherine (c.1477-1513) married William Stourton, 5th Baron Stourton, yet had no children.

[159] William (1478-1539) of Wingfield Castle, yet often kept in the Tower of London. Married Katherine Stourton but had no children.

[160] Richard (1480-1525) lived in exile as a Yorkist pretender following death of his brothers, allying himself with Louis XII of France. Two planned invasions, however, never took place and he died fighting alongside Francis I at the Battle of Pavia. Was known as the 'White Rose'.

Tree 17

Jane Darcy [103] married John Beaumont [~~105~~]. Details relating to this marriage are unclear, yet Foster *County Families* ²¹ gives a John Beaumont of Newsome as marrying Jane, who could be Jane Darcy. This marriage resulted in two sons, Adam and Henry, both of whom were living during the reign of Henry VII. Some sources suggest that Jane's marriage was dissolved.

Tree 18

Elizabeth Eure [119] married three times, first to Sir William Bulmer [~~162~~], second to Sir James Strangeways [~~163~~], third to John Ellerker [~~164~~]. The first marriage resulted in a daughter, the second marriage a daughter and two sons, whilst the third marriage was childless:

[164] Anne, no details are known, but if she had had a son he would certainly have been too young to have fought at Bosworth.

[165] Felicia (1467-) married William Aske (1465-1512) in 1482. Their daughter, Alice was born after Bosworth.

[166] Ralph, born after 1469 and therefore too young to be skeleton 1.

[167] Edward, born after 1469 and therefore too young to be skeleton 1.

Tree 19

Elizabeth Thornton [129], married George [~~168~~] Lord Lumley and had three sons:

[169] Thomas (1460-1487, buried in Lumley, Durham) who married Elizabeth Plantagenet, illegitimate daughter of Edward IV and Elizabeth Waite. Their son, Richard, became 3rd Baron Lumley.

[170] Roger (1475-1530)

[171] Ralph, whose death is unknown, but would have been aged less than 10 at the time of Bosworth.

Tree 20

Anne Grey [138], married John Grey [~~173~~], 8th Baron Grey of Wilton (c.1443-1499). Richardson, *Royal Ancestry* ¹⁰ records them as having seven sons [174-179] and three daughters [180-183]. However, other sources record John Grey marrying secondly, Elizabeth Vaughan, daughter of Sir Thomas Vaughan and widow of Sir Thomas Cokesey, with the first marriage resulting in only one child, Edmund:

[174] Reginald, died before his father in 1499.

[175] Edmund (c.1469-1511) became 9th Baron.

[176] Richard, details uncertain but he would have been aged 14 or younger at the time of Bosworth.

[177] Peter, details uncertain but he would have been aged 14 or younger at the time of Bosworth.

[178] Edward, details uncertain but he would have been aged 14 or younger at the time of Bosworth.

[179] George, details uncertain but he would have been aged 14 or younger at the time of Bosworth.

[180] Thomas, details uncertain but he would have been aged 14 or younger at the time of Bosworth.

[181] Jane (1473-) married Sir Watkin Vaughan. Any children would have been born after Bosworth.

[182] Katherine (1475-) married Sir Thomas Rotherham. Any children would have been born after Bosworth.

[183] Tacy (c.1484-) married John Gyse. Any children would have been born after Bosworth.

What does the information from this web of relatives descended from Sir Payne Roët and his wife tell us? It traces seven generations of descendants and has identified 144 individuals who would have shared the same mtDNA as Richard III, of whom 82 were male, excluding Richard himself. Of these males, 81 could not be skeleton 1 as they either are known to have died either pre or post Bosworth, or were clearly either too old or too young at the time of Bosworth (1485). This leaves just one candidate male: Robert Eure, born around 1450 (Richard was born in 1452), whose death is unknown. However, there is no record of the family having fought at Bosworth, and being a Knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem (Knights Hospitaller), he is likely to have spent time in the Mediterranean, especially Rhodes, and could even have died there. In addition, there are 4 females who *could* in theory have passed on the mtDNA to a future generation but for whom no clear details are known. However, importantly, no record of any marriage for any of these women is recorded, so it is reasonable to assume that they did not have children.