



Richard III: The Sources – what did we know when?

Do we know where Richard III wanted to be buried?

The short answer is no. He left no will.

Financial Gifts

Some people suggest that where he gave financial gifts might indicate where he wished to be buried. Richard made over 400 grants during his reign. In all he made over 20 grants to ecclesiastical establishments: as far afield as Ludlow, Newcastle, Winchester, York, Lancaster, Worcester, Woodstock, Wem, Sutton upon Derwent, and Leicester. If we were to follow this, we would conclude that he wished to be buried in over 20 different places.

What about York?

It is certainly true that that Richard III made a grant to York for ordination of 100 priests, during his short reign, in fact this reconfirmed towards the end of his reign. **However, in the grant absolutely no mention is made of a desire to be buried there** (“To be in the Church of York the king hathe ordeigned /C/ prestes and to sing there in worship of god oure lady seint George & seint Nynyan ut patet in billa”).

So what are we to make of these financial gifts?

The more logical conclusion is that Richard, like all mediaeval monarchs, used the giving of grants as a form of patronage – essentially buying support and allegiance. This is very much the view of Rosemary Horrox, editor of manuscript 433 of the Harleian collection which records the grants made by Richard III. Analysing the pattern of grant making over Richard III's reign, Professor Horrox suggests that in the earlier part of his reign Richard's patronage was given to his established followers and former supports of his brother Edward. This pattern was then changed following the rebellions of autumn 1483. This not only provided more at Richard's disposal to be granted, but also resulted in him concentrating patronage on, as Horrox puts it “trusted members of his northern affinity in the areas most badly affected by the rebellions”. From the summer of 1484 when new threats where mounted, Richard built reliance upon an even narrower range of supporters. Indeed, had he used grants to secure new support rather than strengthen a small and narrowing circle then Bosworth may have had an entirely different outcome.

British Library Harleian Manuscript 433: Register of Grants for the Reigns of Edward V and Richard III v. 1 (The Richard III Society) Rosemary Horrox (Editor), P.W. Hammond (Editor) (1979)



What was known about Richard's genealogy?

Summary: Tracing the lineage of those of royal or noble descent is no new field of research. Many attempts have been to trace various branches of Richard's family tree and these must be the starting point in any such exercise.

The Male Line

Male line relatives of Richard III can be relatively easily identified using Burke's Peerage. See more information below.

The Female Line

General note sources and the lineage of Anne of York, Duchess of Exeter

Of particular note as a starting point is **the work of the Marquis of Ruvigny** who attempted to trace all the descendants of Edward III. His work was published in several volumes over a number of years, and **in the Anne of Exeter volume published in 1907, Ruvigny traced the 'Ibsen' line down to the Spooners at around 1800¹.**

However, Ruvigny provides little in the way of detailed bibliographic references to documentary sources and evidence. For the earlier period he relied heavily on the so-called visitation records. These are documents which resulted from visits made between 1530 and 1688 by the officers of arms to various counties in order to check both the social status and to record the pedigrees of those who claimed the right to bear arms. Their written records and notes were then returned to the College of Arms in London.²

These sources were also key to the research of **Joseph Foster whose four volume work on the county families of Yorkshire published in 1874/5** was largely based on visitation pedigrees and other documentation³. **This important work provides detailed pedigrees of some of the Yorkshire families in the 'Ibsen line', such as the Constables, Babthorpes and Cholmleys⁴.**

Lastly, when considering visitation information, **it is also important to note the monumental work of Frederick Arthur Crisp whose *Visitation of England and Wales*, published in a total of 35 volumes, including 14 volumes of notes**

¹ M. A. H. D Heddle de la Caillemotte de Massue de Ruvigny, Marquis de Ruvigny and Raineval, *The Plantagenet Roll of the Blood Royal, being a complete table of all the descendants now living of Edward III, King of England. [With plates and genealogical tables.]*, (London, T. C. & E. C. Jack, 1905-11), 4 vols. *The Anne of Exeter volume, containing the descendants of Anne-Plantagenet-Duchess of Exeter.* (1907), vol. 2.

² See A. Wagner, *The records and collections of the College of Arms*, (London, 1952).

³ J. Foster (compiler), *Pedigrees of the county families of Yorkshire*, (London, W. Wilfred Head, 1874-5), 4 vols.

⁴ See also C. B. Norcliffe (ed), *The visitation of Yorkshire in the years 1563 and 1564 made by William Flower...*, (Harleian Society, 1881); J. Foster (ed), *The visitation of Yorkshire made in the years, 1584/5 by Robert Lover, Somerset Herald; to which is added the subsequent visitation made in 1612 by Richard St, George, Norroy king of arms...*, (privately published, 1875); and J. W. Clay (ed), *Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire, [in 1665-66.] with additions*, (Exeter, W. Pollard & co., 1899-1917), 3 vols.



between 1893 and 1921 (Crisp died the following year), which details the pedigrees of the Spooners and related families⁵.

In addition, details of the various family pedigrees of descendants from Anne of York are given in part in the volumes of Burke's Landed Gentry, volumes of the Victoria History of the Counties of England and earlier county histories.

The Genealogical Work of John Ashdown-Hill

While the family tree of Anne of York down to the Spooner's (c. 1800) was already published by Ruvinney (1907) and others (see references above), in 2004 John Ashdown-Hill published the lineage down to Joy Ibsen, and her children Michael, Jeff and Leslie. Joy Ibsen was the 16th generation great niece, down the female line, of Richard III. By finding Joy, John had found someone who could act as a potential comparator for mitochondrial DNA analysis (see more on the DNA below) should any putative remains of Richard III be found. Joy Ibsen died in 2008, but her son, Michael Ibsen, very kindly agreed to take part in the project.

The Genealogical Work of Kevin Schürer

'The Ibsen Lineage'

Since the provenance of the exhaustive work of Ruvinney on the Plantagenet lineage is often vague and the subsequent important work of John Ashdown-Hill extending the lineage of Anne of York down to Joy Ibsen provides no supporting documentary evidence, the team set out to do just this. The results of the research are seen in the lineage below.

The University of Leicester acknowledges the important contributions of David Annal and Dr Morris Bierbrier, both of whom are independent genealogical experts. The former was previously Principal Family History Specialist at the Family Records Centre, The National Archives. The latter is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists, specializing in royal lineage.

'The Second Lineage'

From the start of the project, the University felt that it was important to try and establish a second lineage, in addition to Michael Ibsen, in order that any subsequent results could be triangulated. Therefore, alongside his conducting the research to verify Michael Ibsen's lineage, Kevin Schürer traced a second female-line relative of Richard III. This person kindly agreed to take part in the project but wishes to remain anonymous.

The Male Line

Using Burkes Peerage as a starting point, Professor Kevin Schürer traced, and was able to locate and contact, four distantly related individuals who could all trace their lineage back through an unbroken male line to Richard III. These individuals have kindly taken part in the study.

⁵ J. J. Howard and F. A. Crisp (eds), *Visitation of England and Wales*, (London, privately published, 1893-1921), 35 vols.



Sources for the Ibsen Lineage (work led by Kevin Schürer)

1. Ann St. Leger

Ann was born in 1476 in Ulcombe, Kent⁶. Her parents were Thomas ST. LEGER and Anne of York, the Duchess of Exeter and sister of King RICHARD III.

She married Sir George MANNERS around 1495 and was buried in St George's Chapel, Windsor in 1526⁷.

Her will was written on 20 April 1526 and proved on 24 February 1526/27⁸. In it she mentions 'Kateryn my daughter'⁹ and then later 'my daughter Constabell'¹⁰.

2. Catherine MANNERS

Catherine was born around 1500. Her parents were George MANNERS 12th Baron de ROS (or ROOS) and Ann (née ST. LEGER).

Around 1520, Catherine married Robert CONSTABLE. As stated above, her mother's will, dated 20 April 1526 mentions 'Kateryn my daughter'.

Catherine was apparently buried at 'Babthorpe Chapel' in the parish of Hemingbrough, Yorkshire.

3. Barbara CONSTABLE

Barbara was born around 1525 the daughter of Sir Robert CONSTABLE and Catherine (née MANNERS). She married William BABTHORPE¹¹ around 1550 and died before 1564. William married his second wife, Frances DAWNEY that year¹².

William died in 1581¹³ and died intestate (but see note¹⁴ below). A grant of letters of administration was made at the Prerogative Court of York on 8 June 1581¹⁵.

4. Margaret BABTHORPE

Margaret was born around 1550. Her parents were Sir William BABTHORPE and Barbara (née CONSTABLE)¹⁶. She married Sir Henry CHOLMLEY or CHOLMONDLEY¹⁷ around 1575 and was buried at St John's, York on 15 April 1628.

⁶ W. B. Bannerman, (ed) *The Visitations of Kent Taken In The Years 1530-1, and 1574 [Part I (A-H), Part II (I-Z)], and the Visitation Of Kent 1592*, (Harleian Society, 1923-4), vol. 75.

⁷ <http://www.stgeorges-windsor.org/archives/blog/?tag=rutland-chantry-chapel>

⁸ Will and probate of Anne Lady Roos. Proved, London (PCC) 24 February 1526 (The National Archives (TNA) reference PROB11/22 f.127)

⁹ Ibid., f.127r line 6

¹⁰ Ibid., f.127r line 23

¹¹ DNB <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/71868/75309?docPos=2>

¹² DNB <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/71868/75309?docPos=2>

¹³ DNB <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/71868/75309?docPos=2>

¹⁴ T. Burton, *The History and Antiquities of the Parish of Hemingbrough in the County of York*, (1888) p.314, states that "His eldest son, another Sir William, died in 1581, leaving a will, which does not now exist, in which he desired to be buried in his chapel at Hemingbrough, near the body of Barbara his wife."

¹⁵ Index of Wills in the York Registry, 1568-1585. Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Vol 19 (1895) p.187

¹⁶ DNB <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/71868/75309?docPos=2>

¹⁷ <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/cholmley-henry-1556-1616>



5. Barbara CHOLMLEY or CHOLMONDLEY

Barbara was born around 1575. She married Thomas Belasyse 1st Viscount Fauconberg of Henknolwe¹⁸ in 1601. Evidence for this marriage is to be found in their son-in-law Henry SLINGSBY's diary in which he mentions 'my brother John Belasyse'¹⁹ – 'brother' here meaning brother-in-law. Barbara died in 1615.

Her husband died around 1653, leaving a will which was written on 9 September 1652 and proved at the PCC on 12 July 1653²⁰. Their daughter, Barbara (who married Henry SLINGSBY) died before her father. Neither Henry SLINGSBY, nor any of his children, are named in Thomas's will.

6. Barbara BELASYSE or BELLASIS

Barbara was baptised on 12 October 1610²¹, the daughter of Thomas BELASYSE 1st Viscount Fauconberg of Henknolwe and his wife Barbara (née CHOLMLEY).

She married Henry SLINGSBY on 7 July 1631 at St Mary Abbot's, Kensington²². According to Henry SLINGSBY's diary, Barbara died on 31 December 1641²³. Henry was a staunch Royalist and was executed on Tower Hill on 8 June 1658²⁴. Neither Henry nor Barbara left a will.

7. Barbara SLINGSBY

Barbara was born on 16 May 1633, the daughter of Sir Henry SLINGSBY and his wife Barbara (née Belasyse). The precise date of her birth is taken from the introduction to a diary kept by her father²⁵.

She married Sir John TALBOT on 13 July 1660 at St Peter, Paul's Wharf in the City of London²⁶.

Sir John died sometime around 1714²⁷. His will was written on 1 August 1712 and proved on 30 May 1714. John names his 'second daughter Barbara'²⁸ as a beneficiary. Later on in the will he mentions 'my Grandson Talbot Lord Viscount Longueville (eldest son of my Daughter Barbara Viscountess Longueville)²⁹.

¹⁸ DNB <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/71863/75367?docPos=9>

¹⁹ Rev D. Parsons, (ed) *The diary of Sir Henry Slingsby of Scriven*, (1836) p.3.

²⁰ Will and probate of Thomas Lord Fauconberg. Proved, London (PCC) 12 July 1653 (TNA reference PROB11/226 ff.102-103)

²¹ England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/NPB1-K57> : accessed 30 Jan 2013), Barbarie Belassis, 12 Oct 1609; citing COXWOLD,YORK,ENGLAND, reference ; FHL microfilm 844560.

²² England, Marriages, 1538–1973, index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/NLQ4-CZ2> : accessed 30 Jan 2013), Henry Slingsby and Barbara Belasys, ; citing Saint Mary Abbots,Kensington,London,England, reference ; FHL microfilm 845231.

²³ Parsons, *Sir Henry Slingsby*, pp.73-4

²⁴ <http://www.capitalpunishmentuk.org/tower.html>

²⁵ Parsons, *Sir Henry Slingsby*, p.3

²⁶ England, Marriages, 1538–1973, index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/NKDG-SFM> : accessed 30 Jan 2013), John Talbott and Barbera Slingsby, ; citing Saint Peter Pauls Wharf,London,London,England, reference ; FHL microfilm 547508.

²⁷ Will and probate of Sir John TALBOT. Proved, London (PCC) 30 May 1714 (TNA reference PROB11/540 ff.125-128)

²⁸ Ibid., f.125r line 15

²⁹ Ibid., f.126r lines 34-35



Barbara's would appear to have died before her husband as she is not named in his will.

8. Barbara TALBOT

Barbara was born around 1665. She was the daughter of Sir John TALBOT and his wife Barbara (née SLINGSBY). She married Henry YELVERTON (15th Baron Grey de Ruthyn, 1st Viscount Longueville) on 11 July 1689 at St Martin in the Fields, Westminster³⁰.

Henry died around 1704. His will was proved at the PCC on 1 June 1704³¹ and mentions 'my daughter Barbara'³². The will also indicates that she was his eldest daughter³³.

His widow, Barbara (née TALBOT) lived to the grand old age of 98, eventually dying in 1763. She died on 31 January 1763³⁴ at Brandon, Warwickshire and left a will which was written on 13 July 1759 and proved at the PCC on 5 February 1763³⁵. The will names 'my Grand-daughter the Lady Gough' as a beneficiary³⁶. This is a reference to Barbara CALTHORP who married Henry GOUGH in 1741.

9. Barbara YELVERTON

Barbara was born around 1692. Her parents were Henry YELVERTON and his wife Barbara (née TALBOT).

Barbara married Reynolds CALTHORPE in 1715. A special licence was granted at the Faculty Office on 11 June 1715. Their daughter, Barbara CALTHORPE was born within a year or two of their marriage. Reynolds CALTHORPE died on 12 April 1719 and was buried at Elvetham, Hampshire³⁷. He left a will which was proved at the PCC on 3 June 1720³⁸ in which he mentions 'my daughter Barbara'³⁹.

His widow, survived him – but not for long. She was buried on 2 June 1724 at Elvetham, dying intestate.

³⁰ England, Marriages, 1538–1973, index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/NJYN-25C> : accessed 30 Jan 2013), Henry Grey and Barbara Talbot, ; citing Saint Martin In The Fields, Westminster, London, England, reference ; FHL microfilm 561155.

³¹ Will and probate of Henry Viscount LONGUEVILLE. Proved, London (PCC) 1 June 1704 (TNA reference PROB11/477 ff.9-10)

³² *Ibid.*, f.9v lines 8-9

³³ *Ibid.*, f.9v line 37

³⁴ *Gentleman's Magazine*, **33**, February 1763 p.97

³⁵ Will and probate of Barbara Viscountess LONGUEVILLE. Proved, London (PCC) 5 February 1763 (TNA reference PROB11/884 ff.161-162)

³⁶ *Ibid.*, f.161v. lines 31-32

³⁷ J. L. Chester, (ed), *The Marriage, Baptismal, and Burial Registers of the Collegiate Church or Abbey of St. Peter, Westminster*, (London, England: Harleian Society, 1876), p.19, fn 15.

³⁸ Will and probate of Reynolds CALTHORPE. Proved, London (PCC) 3 June 1720 (TNA reference PROB11/574 ff.252-253)

³⁹ *Ibid.*, f.253r line 16



10. Barbara CALTHORP

Barbara was born around 1716. Her parents were Reynolds CALTHORP(E) and his wife Barbara (née YELVERTON). On 2 July 1741, she married Henry GOUGH at the parish church of St Martin in the Fields, Westminster⁴⁰.

Sir Henry died in 1774 and was buried at Edgbaston, Warwickshire on 15 June 1774⁴¹. His will was proved at the PCC on 2 July 1774⁴².

Dame Barbara survived Henry, dying in 1782. She was buried at Edgbaston on 22 April 1782⁴³. Her will, which was written on 28 July 1778, was proved at the PCC on 3 May 1782⁴⁴. The will mentions 'my Daughter Barbara Spooner'⁴⁵.

11. Barbara GOUGH

Barbara was born around 1745. Her parents were Sir Henry GOUGH and his wife Barbara (née CALTHORP).

She married Isaac SPOONER in Edgbaston on 9 January 1770⁴⁶, banns having also been called at Elmdon parish church (Isaac's home parish) on the three preceding Sundays⁴⁷.

Isaac died in 1816 – he was buried at Elmdon on 14 June 1816⁴⁸ – and he left a will which was proved at the PCC on 23 October 1816⁴⁹.

Barbara survived Isaac eventually dying in 1826. She was buried at Elmdon on 4 April 1826⁵⁰, leaving a will which was written on 17 November 1820 and proved at the PCC on 20 June 1826⁵¹. The will mentions 'my daughter Ann the wife of the Reverend Edward Neale'⁵².

Isaac and Barbara had at least eight children including Ann who was baptised at Aston on 16 February 1780 and Barbara, who married the abolitionist William WILBERFORCE on 30 May 1797 at Walcot, Bath.

⁴⁰ *Gentleman's Magazine*, **11**, July 1741 p.387

⁴¹ National Burial Index, 3rd Edition

⁴² Will and probate of Sir Henry GOUGH. Proved, London (PCC) 2 July 1774 (TNA reference PROB11/999 ff.245-247)

⁴³ National Burial Index, 3rd Edition

⁴⁴ Will and probate of Barbara GOUGH. Proved, London (PCC) 3 May 1782 (TNA reference PROB 11/1090 ff.268-269)

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, f.268r lines 14-15

⁴⁶ England, Marriages, 1538–1973, "index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/V5V5-H7Q> : accessed 30 Jan 2013), Isaac Spooner and Barbara Gough, ; citing Edgbaston, Warwick, England, reference ; FHL microfilm 1426213 IT 1-2, 502272, 502273, 502274.

⁴⁷ Elmdon parish registers (Warwickshire CRO reference PG2984 DR(B)14/2)

⁴⁸ National Burial Index, 3rd Edition

⁴⁹ Will and probate of Isaac SPOONER. Proved, London (PCC) 23 October 1816 (TNA reference PROB11/1585 ff.105-114)

⁵⁰ National Burial Index, 3rd Edition

⁵¹ Will and probate of Ann SPOONER. Proved, London (PCC) 20 June 1826 (TNA reference PROB11/1585 ff.376-378)

⁵² *Ibid.*, f.377r lines 15-16



12. Ann SPOONER

Ann was baptised on 16 February 1780⁵³ in the parish church of Aston juxta Birmingham, the daughter of Isaac SPOONER and his wife Barbara (née GOUGH).

She married Edward NEALE who changed his name from VANSITTART by Royal Licence on 14 November 1803. He was the Rector of Taplow, Bucks., from 1803 until his death in 1850.

In the 1841⁵⁴ census the family were living at the Vicarage in Taplow but Edward died in 1850. His will was written on 2 September 1848 and proved at the PCC on 27 February 1850⁵⁵. He mentions a number of family members including 'my daughter Charlotte Vansittart Frere'⁵⁶.

Following Edward's death, Ann moved to Hastings. She is listed there in the 1851⁵⁷, 1861⁵⁸ and 1871⁵⁹ censuses. The first two of these confirm that she was born in Aston, Warwickshire while the 1871 census is more specific, giving her place of birth as 'Birches Green'.

Ann lived on until 1873, when she died in Hastings. Her will⁶⁰ was proved in London on 27 December 1873. In it, she mentions 'my daughters Laura Vansittart Strettel and Charlotte Vansittart Frere'.

Edward and Ann had at least six children (all of whom were given the middle name Vansittart) including Charlotte, who was baptised at Taplow in 1817. Caroline married Harry Buckland LOTT in 1835 but died soon after without leaving issue. Ann died unmarried in 1899 and Frances died in 1827 aged just eight. Laura married Alfred Baker STRETTTEL at Taplow in 1844 and they had two children.

13. Charlotte Vansittart NEALE

Charlotte was baptised in Taplow, Buckinghamshire on 21 April 1817⁶¹, the daughter of Edward NEALE and Ann (née SPOONER). Her father was the rector of Taplow.

In the 1841⁶² census the family were living at the Vicarage in Taplow: Edward and Ann and three of their children, including Charlotte, whose age is given as 20 (ages in

⁵³ England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/JM1X-H83> : accessed 30 Jan 2013), Ann Spooner, 16 Feb 1780; citing [REFERENCE-ERROR], reference ; FHL microfilm 919792, 919793.

⁵⁴ 1841 census (TNA reference HO107/48/11 f.5 p.3)

⁵⁵ Will and probate of Edward NEALE. Proved, London (PCC) 27 February 1850 (TNA reference PROB11/2107 ff.344-346)

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, f.345v lines 2-3

⁵⁷ 1851 census (TNA reference HO107/1635 f.426 p.63 & f.427 p.64)

⁵⁸ 1861 census (TNA reference RG9/560 f.64 p.51)

⁵⁹ 1871 census (TNA reference RG10/1031 f.54 p.36)

⁶⁰ Will and probate of Ann NEALE. Proved, London 27 December 1873 (Principal Registry of the Family Division (PRFD))

⁶¹ England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/JMBD-J43> : accessed 30 Jan 2013), Charlotte Vansittart Neale, 21 Apr 1817; citing TAPLOW, BUCKINGHAM, ENGLAND, reference ; FHL microfilm 919250.

⁶² 1841 census (TNA reference HO107/48/11 f.5 p.3)



the 1841 census were rounded down to the nearest five years so this actually means 'between 20 and 24').

Later the same year, Charlotte married Charles FRERE, almost certainly at Taplow church. Marriage registered in 4th quarter 1841⁶³

14. NEALE Charlotte Vansittart

Registration District: Eton, Volume: 6, Page: 655

The FRERE family were living in Croydon (Stroud Green, Shirley) in 1851⁶⁴ and 1861⁶⁵ but by 1871, they had moved to Paddington (London)⁶⁶.

Charlotte died in January 1881 in Bournemouth leaving a will which was proved at London on 25 May 1881⁶⁷. The will is very short but the grant of probate mentions 'the last Will and Testament of her Father the Reverend Edward Neale deceased'.

Charlotte's husband, Charles FRERE, died in 1884. His will⁶⁸ mentions 'my Children Charles Edward Vansittart Frere, Alfred Vansittart Frere, Eustace Vansittart Frere, Charlotte Vansittart Frere, Caroline Emily Vansittart Frere, Katharine Vansittart Frere and Laura Vansittart Frere'.

Charlotte had a twin sister, Marion Vansittart FRERE, who died in 1852. Caroline married Samuel John HARRISON and died without issue. Catherine married Joseph Arthur REEVE and also died without issue⁶⁹. Laura married Frederick William De FABECK and died, once more, without issue⁷⁰.

Charlotte was therefore the only daughter to leave issue.

15. Charlotte Vansittart FRERE

Charlotte was born in Westminster in 1846. She was the daughter of Charles FRERE and his wife Charlotte Vansittart (née NEALE). Birth registered in 2nd quarter 1846⁷¹

Charlotte Vansittart FRERE, Registration District: Westminster, Volume: I, Page: 447

The family were living in Croydon (Stroud Green, Shirley) in 1851⁷². Charlotte is listed (aged 5) along with her parents and two brothers and two sisters. The family were still at Stroud Green in 1861⁷³ with Charlotte now aged 15 but by 1871, they had moved to Paddington (London)⁷⁴.

⁶³ General Register Office (GRO) Index to Marriages registered in Q4 1841

⁶⁴ 1851 census (TNA reference HO107/1601 f.529 p.8)

⁶⁵ 1861 census (TNA reference RG9/450 f.195 p.3)

⁶⁶ 1871 census (TNA reference RG10/22 f.36 p.25)

⁶⁷ Will and probate of Charlotte Vansittart FRERE. Proved, London 25 May 1881 (PRFD)

⁶⁸ Will and probate of Charles FRERE. Proved, London 21 April 1884 (PRFD)

⁶⁹ Will and probate of Catherine Vansittart REEVE. Proved, London 29 August 1923 (PRFD)

⁷⁰ Will and probate of Laura Vansittart De FABECK. Proved, London 6 March 1939 (PRFD)

⁷¹ GRO Index to Births registered in Q2 1846

⁷² 1851 census (TNA reference HO107/1601 f.529 p.8)

⁷³ 1861 census (TNA reference RG9/450 f.195 p.3)

⁷⁴ 1871 census (TNA reference RG10/22 f.36 p.25)



Charlotte married Allen Folliot STOKES in 1882. Marriage registered in 4th quarter 1882⁷⁵

FRERE Charlotte Vansittart, Registration District: Wokingham, Volume: 2c, Page: 818

Charlotte died in 1916. Death registered in 1st quarter 1916⁷⁶

STOKES Charlotte V, Age: 69, Registration District: Newton A [Newton Abbot], Volume: 5b, Page: 205

Charlotte doesn't appear to have left a will. She was survived by her husband who died in 1939 and who left a will which was proved in London on 5 January 1940⁷⁷. Allen Folliot Gardiner STOKES names his grandchildren, Kenneth Murray Brown, Patrick Murray Brown and Joyce Murray Brown, as his sole beneficiaries. Although the middle names are all wrong, it is clear that these are the three children of his daughter Muriel. Moray (not Murray) was the middle name of Allen's son-in-law, Orland BROWN.

Allen and Charlotte appear to have had just one child, Muriel Charlotte Folliot STOKES, born in 1884.

16. Muriel Charlotte Folliot STOKES

Muriel was born in 1884. She was the daughter of Alan (Allen) Folliot Gardiner STOKES and his wife Charlotte Vansittart (née FRERE). Birth registered in 2nd quarter 1884⁷⁸

STOKES Muriel Charlotte F, District: Kingston, Volume: 2a, Page: 307

At the time of the 1891 census⁷⁹ Muriel was living in St Ives, Cornwall with her parents who were listed in the returns as 'visitors'. In 1901, Muriel, now aged 17, was in Penzance with her mother⁸⁰.

Muriel's marriage (to Orlando Moray BROWN) took place in 1919. Marriage registered in 2nd quarter 1919⁸¹

STOKES Muriel C F, Spouse's surname: BROWN, District: Newton A, Volume: 5b, Page: 307

Orlando and Muriel had at least three children:

- Kenneth P BROWN (Q2 1920, Paddington RD)
- Patrick H BROWN (Q2 1924, Paddington RD)
- Joyce Muriel BROWN (Q2 1926, Paddington RD)

⁷⁵ GRO Index to Marriages registered in Q4 1882 p.104

⁷⁶ GRO Index to Deaths registered in Q1 1916 p.176

⁷⁷ Will and probate of Allen Folliot Gardiner STOKES. Proved, London 5 January 1940 (PRFD)

⁷⁸ GRO Index to Births registered in Q2 1884 p.523

⁷⁹ 1891 census (TNA reference: RG12/1854 f.146 p.8)

⁸⁰ 1901 census (TNA reference: RG13/2254 f.124 p.2)

⁸¹ GRO Index to Marriages registered in Q2 1919 p.251



Muriel died in Canada in 1961. She left a will⁸² which was proved (with a limited grant) in London on 28 December 1961 naming her daughter Joy Ibsen as her sole executrix.

In the will itself Muriel names 'my Son & daughter Patrick Brown and Joy Brown who is now Mrs Ibsen'. Although Muriel also mentions Kenneth, he is not explicitly named as her son, although on the second page of the will she mentions 'my three children'. Joyce (Joy) was Muriel's only daughter.

17. Joyce Muriel BROWN – also known as Joy IBSEN

Joyce's birth was registered in the Paddington (London) registration district in 1926: Birth registered in 2nd quarter 1926⁸³

BROWN Joyce M, Mother's Maiden Surname: STOKES, District: Paddington, Volume: 1a, Page: 106A

This appears to be a re-registration. The birth was originally registered under the name Muriel J BROWN with the reference 1a 106⁸⁴.

She moved to Canada with her mother in 1948, travelling onboard the SS *Mauretania* in August⁸⁵. Joy BROWN married Norm IBSEN and the couple had three children, Michael, Jeff and Leslie. Joy Ibsen died in 2008.

⁸² Will and probate of Muriel Charlotte Folliot BROWN. Proved, London 28 December 1961 (PRFD)

⁸³ GRO Index to Births registered in Q2 1926 p.144

⁸⁴ GRO Index to Births registered in Q2 1926 p.143

⁸⁵ Passenger Lists (Passengers Leaving the UK) TNA reference BT27/1630



The DNA evidence

The DNA evidence would form just one strand of the identification of any putative remains of Richard III. This evidence would have to be taken alongside all other evidence: genealogical, archaeological, osteological, radiocarbon dating and stable isotope analysis and genealogical evidence.

Work carried out by John Ashdown-Hill

In 2003, Belgian colleagues carrying out research into the remains of Margaret of York met John Ashdown-Hill at a conference and asked John if he could trace a living female-line relative of Margaret in order to provide a comparator for any mitochondrial analysis. John traced Joy Ibsen, (see section above).

Mitochondrial DNA is passed by a mother to all her children, but as it's passed down in the egg only daughters can pass it on. Thus in tracing Joy Ibsen, this individual would also be a female-line relative of all of Margaret's siblings, including Richard III, Margaret's brother: the both of them inheriting their mitochondrial DNA from their mother.

While John hadn't discovered Richard's DNA (only Richard could carry his own DNA), he had found a female line relative who could potentially act as a comparator for mitochondrial DNA analysis should any putative remains of Richard be found. John Ashdown-Hill had part of Joy Ibsen's mtDNA sequenced in 2006 and published it in *Alive and Well in Canada: the mitochondrial DNA of Richard III* (2006) - In: *The Ricardian* vol. 16 (2006) p. 1-14.

Work carried out by Dr Turi King and colleagues

With the availability of current samples, genetic analysis for the current Richard III project was started from scratch, using DNA kindly provided by Michael Ibsen, the son of Joy Ibsen who died some years ago, and a second individual, distantly related to Richard III and Michael Ibsen, who Kevin Schürer traced in 2012.

The Y chromosome carries on it the gene which determines maleness and therefore is only passed down through the male line. Male-line relatives, as traced by Kevin Schürer, then provide a comparator for analysis of the Y chromosome from the skeletal remains.

The DNA analysis for the Richard III project is being lead by Dr Turi King and is concentrating on both the mitochondrial DNA and Y chromosome analysis. It is expected that the results of this research will be published in 2014.