

The Wars

of the

Roses

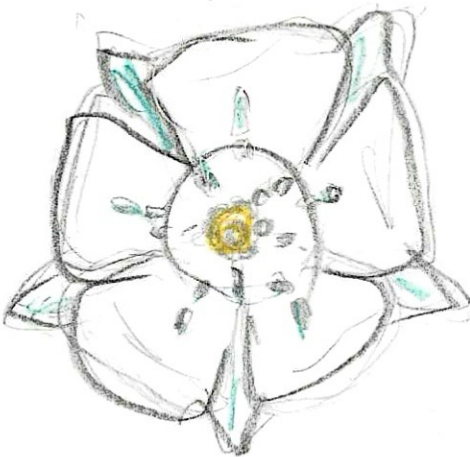




Henry VI

Henry VI was old enough to manage things for himself now, but wasn't fit to be king in these troubled times. His wife, Margaret, told him to say things that made powerful nobles very angry at him. Now, two groups of nobles were angrier at each other than ever.

York



Lancaster



The King and Queens group were called the Lancastrians and the Duke of York's group were called the Yorkists. The Lancastrians had a red rose as their badge and the Yorkists had a white rose, which gave the war its name:
the War of the Roses



After many bloody battles the Duke of York took Henry VI prisoner. The Lords did not agree to give away the crown immediately but said York could be king once Henry VI died. The Queen did not like this arrangement but wanted her son to be king.



She gathered an army and marched against York, York was killed in battle and the Queen won the day. However, the Duke of York's son, Edward, had many friends ready to carry the battle on. He marched against the Lancastrians and won, Edward was crowned King Edward IV, and Henry and Margaret had to flee into Scotland.



Henry VI in prison

Margaret would not give up and again and again marched into England but was always driven back by Edward. She eventually had to flee to France. Henry VI was later found and put in the tower. One thing made the nobles very angry with Edward. He had married an English woman, but the nobles had wanted him to marry a foreign princess.



He also started to quarrel with the Earl of Warwick. The Earl of Warwick was so angry, he made friends with Queen Margaret and drove Edward out of England. After six months, Edward returned to England and won back the throne.



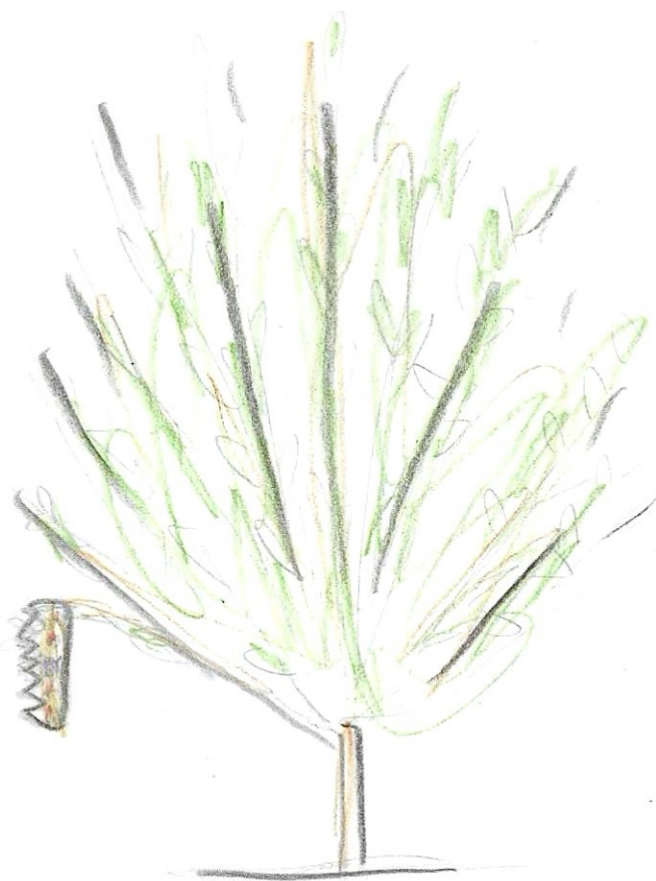
Around that time Margaret had landed in England with an army, Edward fought her at Tewkesbury where she was defeated and finally taken prisoner. Then, it was found out that Edwards' brother, the Duke of Clarence, was going to try to take the throne. Clarence was found guilty and imprisoned.



Tower of London.

Edward's twelve year old son became King, but Richard, the Duke of Gloucester, took this as his moment to seize power. He captured the king and his little brother, the Duke of York, and locked them in the Tower of London.

Richard then became King Richard III.



All the Lancastrians were dead, except one. This was Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond. Henry started to gather an army to fight Richard and met him at Bosworth, where a bloody battle followed. Richard was killed in the fight and his crown was found on the branch of a bush. It was taken to Henry and he was crowned on the battlefield.