

The Royal Family – Royal Marriages and Death



The Chamber Books gives insight into the relationships between the king, queen and their children. Henry Tudor married Elizabeth, frequently called 'Elizabeth of York', as her father, King Edward IV, had inherited from his father the Dukedom of York. They had seven children together.

This picture shows the king and queen kneeling with their children, whilst St. George fights a dragon in the background.

Arthur was the eldest child, born in September 1486, nine months after Henry and Elizabeth married. He received an education fit for a king, including learning how to speak and read Latin, which was useful when he married the Spanish princess, Catherine of Aragon, as she could not speak English, but could speak Latin.



In 1501, Arthur married Catherine, and took her to live with him at his castle in Ludlow. The young prince did not enjoy married life for long, for in April 1502 the prince died suddenly, aged 15. He is buried at Worcester Cathedral, where his tomb can still be seen. This meant that his brother, Henry, was now heir to the throne.



Margaret was the eldest daughter, born in 1489. She was married by proxy (that is, remotely, with someone else standing in for the bridegroom) to King James IV of Scotland in 1502, and she is referred to as the Queen of Scotland thereafter in the Chamber Books. The couple were married in person a year later, in 1503. Henry bought his daughter a lot of clothes and jewels for her marriage.

Q.1. Henry bought jewels and clothes for Margaret in preparation for her marriage. Can you find a payment for jewels on [this page](#)?

Sad Times...

Arthur was not the only child of Henry and Elizabeth to die young. **Elizabeth**, born in 1491, died only 3 years old. **Edmund**, born 1499, was only a year old when he died. The last child, Katherine, was only a few days old when she died in 1503. Elizabeth, her mother, had died soon after her birth.



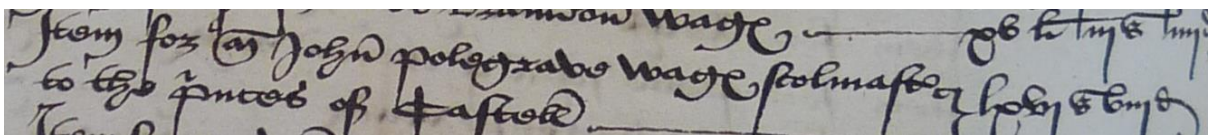
This picture, a page in a book given to Henry VII showing the author of the book himself presenting the book to the king, shows in the top left corner the prince Henry crying whilst learning on a bed, upset over the death of his mother, whilst his two surviving sisters, Margaret and Mary, play by the fire.



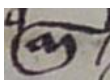
The king was upset, and he never remarried, though he did consider it. That same year, his eldest daughter Margaret, left for Scotland. Only the king, his son Henry and his daughter Mary were left.



Mary was born in 1496. She was engaged to the future Spanish ruler, Charles V, when she was 12. At the time he was known as the prince of Castile, which is where he was born and part of the empire he would eventually inherit. They married by proxy, which means that an official from the Spanish court stood in for the bridegroom, but the actual marriage did not take place as the groom's father, Emperor Maximilian, decided to marry the boy to a French princess instead. proxy, an actual marriage did not happen.



Q.2. This is a tricky bit for you to transcribe – how much of it can you manage?



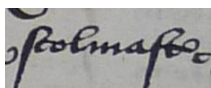
When this appears before a name, it usually means 'master'.



The squiggle above the 'p' means 'ri', as in princes, which we would write as 'princess'.



'es', as in 'wages'.



Note the loop off the 't' – this means 'er' is missing.

Q.3. Who was the 'p[ri]nces of Castell' mentioned?