

The Chamber Book Project
Investigation 3: Henry's Use of 'Feudal Dues' & Wardships



In this self-guided session you will:

- Investigate Henry VII's relationship with his nobles and the methods he would use to get money from them by taking on the role of the historian yourself;
- You will use the Chamber Books online database as an investigative tool to find your information;
- Learn more about how historical research is conducted and learn about a new research method (and some problems historians may encounter while carrying out this type of research!)

Instructions:

1. Go to the Chamber Books website database here:
<https://www.dhi.ac.uk/chamber-books/search/search>
2. Type 'Elizabeth Trussell' as your search word.
3. Select the 'modernised' version.
4. Click on the year range and set this to 1505-1509.
5. Click on 'Go'.
6. Click on the top item, [E36/214 f228v](#)
7. Read the second two items on the list. They are about the wardship of an heiress called Elizabeth Trussell. Can you try and work out what they are about?
8. Now read this article about Elizabeth Trussell
<https://www.tudorchamberbooks.org/the-trussell-wardship/> which is based on the chamber books' evidence.
9. Fill in relevant points on the recording grid below using this information.
Does this case overall suggest the king is unfair in his use of this feudal right?
10. Now, see if you can find examples of other cases where the king used wardships to bring in more money.
11. Go back to the database search page and type 'ward' as your search word.
Remember to click for the modernised version of the text!
12. Set the year range to 1485-1502.
13. Click on 'Go'.
14. Try to find a few examples of the king getting money from wardships in the search results (you don't need to read them all!) and record your findings in the grid below.
15. Repeat steps 11-14 for the years 1503-1509. Do you notice any changes?

Recording Grid for Henry VII's Spending

CATEGORY & SEARCH TERMS	DATE	AMOUNT	REFERENCE & DETAILS
<p>Elizabeth Trussell</p> <p>Search Term: <u>Elizabeth</u> <u>Trussell</u></p>			

Wards (1485-1502) Search Term: <u>'Ward'</u>	1495	£100 os. od.	Reference: E101/413/2/2, f.88r. Money received for the ward of Copelston.

Wards (1503-1509) Search Term: <u>'Ward'</u>	1505	£66 13s. 4d.	Reference: E101/413/2/3, f. 115v. A part payment received from Sir John Hungerford for the ward of Higford.

Review of Findings

What is your evidence that Henry was unreasonable or unfair in his use of 'feudal dues' and wardships?

What is your evidence that actually Henry was quite reasonable and fair in his use of 'feudal dues' and wardships?

<p>Do you notice any differences between 1485-1502 and 1503-1509?</p>	
<p>How does your research confirm or challenge the comments of historians?</p>	