

# DAME MARGARET HUDDLESTON

by will Glover 11/25/2011 in  
Blog "Marriage and the Nevills"

Margaret Nevill (c. 1440 – 1499)

Margaret Nevill is neither a footnote nor a cardboard cutout. She was the respected daughter of Warwick, whose personal family lineage survived in part through Margaret's daughters.

I first learned of Margaret from one of the Pedigrees Recorded at The Heralds' Visitations of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland made by Richard St. George, Norroy, King of Arms in 1615, and by William Dugdale, Norroy, King of Arms in 1666. The 1615 visitation of 'Hudleston of Millom', found at page 44, mentioned 'Margaret, base daughter of ... Nevill, Earl of Warwick, died 14 H. VII', who married Richard Hudleston (died in the lifetime of his father). Margaret and Richard were the parents of Richard (the indication that he also died in the lifetime of his father would not have been accurate), Margaret (who married Lancelot Salkeld of Gawbarrow) and Joane (who married Hugh Fleming). Young Margaret and Joane (or Joan) are described as the sisters and heirs of young Richard.

Clearly, Margaret Nevill had an impressive pedigree. Through Warwick she was descended from the ancient Kings of Ireland, the Conqueror, Henry I, II, and III, John Lackland, Edward I, II and III, John of Gaunt, and so on. She was the half-sister of Isabel and Anne Nevill. If only she had shared their mother then she would be almost guaranteed a representation in a Shakespearian play.

But Margaret's mother was not Anne Beauchamp, Warwick's only wife to whom he was contracted in marriage at the age of 6 years. As a result of Margaret's slight genetic and social disadvantage she might have missed her opportunity for fame, wealth and historical immortality. Perhaps she was scorned by society as well.

But I don't think so.

Warwick's affair with Margaret's mother probably occurred while he was a teen and before he settled down with Anne. If so, Margaret was born in the 1440s. Warwick and Anne's first child Isabel was not born until 1451.

Warwick acknowledged Margaret as his own. From Warwick she received her surname of Nevill and various lands in Cumberland including the manors of Blennerhasset and Upmanby. Cal. Inq. p.m. HVII, vol. 2, 762, vol. 3, 66, 213. It is said that Warwick paid for her wedding to Sir Richard, which hints at some power-broking in the northern counties of England. Surely Warwick's acknowledgment would overcome any social disadvantage.

Sir Richard and his family were certainly not put off by his wife's status of illegitimacy. They married about in 1464/5 and at least by 1470. Sir Richard had his own impressive pedigree and prospects. The Huddleston family could be traced to five generations before the conquest, he was descended from Sir Nele Loring one of the first Knights of the Garter, and he was heir to the Lordship of Millom. His younger brother William married Warwick's niece Isabel, daughter of Montague.

Margaret's half-sister Anne Nevill also accepted her as family. In 1483, over a decade after Warwick's death, Anne became Queen consort to Richard III. Margaret and Richard attended the Coronation at which Margaret is named as 'Dame Margarete Hudleston', ranking in precedence above most of the Queen's honoured Ladies-in-Waiting. She received a special gift from the King. (Sutton and Hammond, *The Coronation of Richard III the Extant Documents*, pp 167-8 and 360, (my copy of which was a gift from dear cousin Judy).)

It appears that Margaret's and Sir Richard's stars were rising: sister to the Queen; aunt to Prince Edward, heir to the throne; honoured and trusted by the King.

Margaret and Richard postponed having children till the late 1470s. Young Richard was born in 1481 (*Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society*, p. 309). Young Margaret is said by some to have been born in 1479 and Joan in 1485.

These children were children of privilege. They were first cousins to the Plantagenets through their Aunts Isabel and Anne. Young Richard was heir to the Lordship of Millom (held at his birth by his grandfather Sir John Huddleston)

Richard III fell at Bosworth. His wife Anne and his son Edward were already dead. The reign of the Yorks was ended.

Margaret was widowed and probably pregnant with Joan. Young Richard Huddleston was the fatherless heir to valuable estates and was first cousin to the Plantagenets. Tudor King Henry VII made him a royal ward (unless he was made a royal ward by Richard III before Bosworth Field).

Margaret passed away in 1499. The circumstances of her death are unknown. Richard was just 18 years. Threlkeld continued as guardian.

The Lordship of Millom followed the male Huddleston line and was transferred to Richard's uncle John Huddleston. The Nevill estates were divided between Richard's sisters Margaret and Joan. Margaret received Blennerhasset.

In death, Lady Margaret returned to be buried with her first husband Sir Richard

Huddleston in Millom, Cumberland. Sir Lancelot Threlkeld was buried alone.

Margaret Nevill is neither a footnote nor a cardboard cutout. She was the respected daughter of Warwick, whose personal family lineage survived in part through Margaret's daughters.

Lady Margaret's effigy can be seen in photographs of the Huddleston Chapel of Holy Trinity Church, Millom. While the church guidebook names the image as Elizabeth Dacre, for a number of reasons I disagree with the guidebook. I believe that history has recorded the images of Lady Margaret Nevill and her Knight.