

Richard III

Dynasty

Rumours and Opinions.

John Rous, who died in 1492, was a historian and a priest from Warwickshire. During Richard III's reign, John created the Rous Roll. This is a roll of parchment containing 65 pen drawings of the Earls of Warwick and other members of the Beauchamp family as well as Edward IV, Richard III and other important people from the town of Warwick. Under their pictures are their coats of arms and a brief explanation about them.

John was a tricky character though as he actually made 2 Rous Rolls - one in English and one in Latin. In the English roll, John describes Richard as a good man however, in the Latin roll, Richard is removed almost completely. Rumour has it that these changes were made after Richard's death, but why?



An English Knight who was loyal to Richard III later confessed that he killed the princes under Richard's orders. However, he may have made the confession under torture.

Two hundred years after their deaths, two skeletons were found under a staircase in the Tower of London. They were confirmed to be the skeletons of two young boys.

The mighty Prince Richard ruled his subjects very well, punishing criminals and rewarding good people. His people loved him for this, the rich and the poor. People in other countries praised him as well."

The story about Richard II being a murderer may have been made up by his enemies, such as Henry Tudor, who disliked him because he was a Yorkist.

Richard III was known for being a loyal brother, who was brave and charming. Could he really have murdered his own nephews?



The usurper King Richard III then ascended the throne of the slaughtered children... he received his nephew Edward blandly, with embraces and kisses, and within about three months or a little more he killed him together with his brother..."

Your Task

Consider the 2 different opinions of Richard from the same person - Do you think that these are reliable sources of evidence? Can they be trusted? Why do you think that John Rous changed his mind? Explain your thoughts - convince me!