

## The Battle of Stamford Bridge

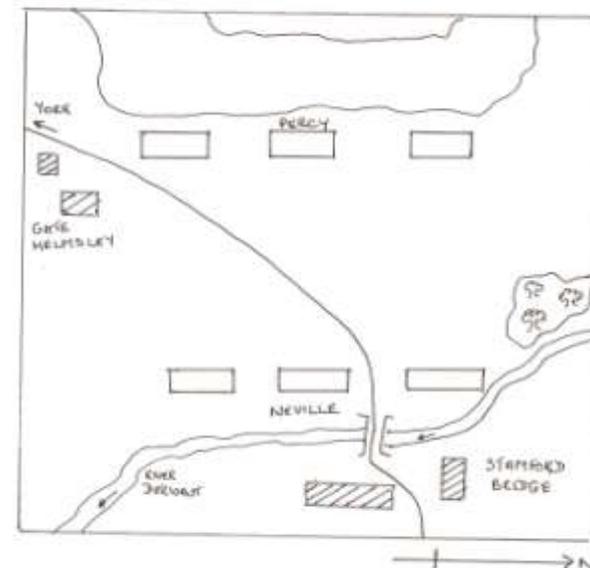
30<sup>th</sup> October 1454

Early in the 15<sup>th</sup> century two families dominated the north of England, the Nevilles and the Percies. Each had extensive estates in the area and these were often in close proximity. A strong rivalry had developed, which had not been held in check by a weak royal authority. During the 1440's each family had raided the other's estates creating a feud which became increasingly violent. Matters came to a head in 1453 when a Neville wedding party, escorting Thomas Neville and his new bride, Maud was ambushed by a Percy force led by Thomas Percy, Lord Egremont, the second son of Henry Percy, the 2<sup>nd</sup> earl of Northumberland at Hewith Moor, near York. Maud was heiress of the Lord Cromwell and the marriage brought some former Percy estates (which they had hoped to recover), into the Neville family. In the end the Neville party managed to escape, but this event triggered a number of tit for tat raids which culminated in an armed clash at Stamford Bridge in October 1454.

Thomas Lord Egremont and his younger brother Richard Percy were leading a force intent on raiding Neville estates in the area. They had gathered some men raised by Peter Lounds, bailiff of the Percy estate in Pocklington near York and were heading north along the line of the old Roman road towards Stamford Bridge. When they arrived they found John Neville, Marquess of Montague, with his brother Thomas, (husband of Maud, see above) with a large body of retainers waiting. Details of the 'battle' are sketchy, but it seems from the chronicles that Lounds and the Pocklington contingent did not take much part in the action, preferring to head for home. After a brief fight, Egremont and his brother John were captured and taken to the Neville castle at Middleham. They were tried at York and found liable for over £11,000 pounds of damage to Neville estates; a sum they could not possibly pay. As a result, they were

transferred to Newgate Prison as debtors where they were held until they escaped two years later.

Neither of the main protagonists survived the ensuing civil wars now known as the Wars of the Roses. Egremont was killed at the battle of Northampton, in 1460; whilst Montague was killed at the battle of Barnet, (1471).



To make for a more interesting game we have assumed that Lounds' band of Pocklington men did not run away and that Egremont's force arrived before Montague's forces had properly formed up after crossing the bridge over the Derwent. The forces are roughly the same size, but Montague's are of better quality.

We will be using our own version of the 'Lion Rampant' rules, written by Dan Mersey and published by Osprey Publishing. They are designed to be quick to learn, easy to use and, most importantly, fun.

# The Lance & Longbow Society



Warfare in the Medieval World 1040 - 1526

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Present



**The Battle of Stamford Bridge**  
**31<sup>st</sup> October 1454**