

The Queens of the Wars of the Roses

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Let's meet our three queens! **Margaret of Anjou**, **Elizabeth Woodville**, and **Anne Neville**.



Queens were defined by:

- Her sharing of the royal dignity
- Her proximity to a king, both in public and private spaces
- Medieval notions of gender

Queens were expected to:

- Uphold the king's interests
- Provide a royal heir
- Provide for her children's education and protect their interests
- Bring important family ties to her marriage
- Display piety
- Construct the king's image as a Christlike one
- Be an intercessor between her subjects and the king
- Manage her land holdings

All three of these queens met these standards despite the unusual circumstances of their reigns. The times were unconventional, not the displays of queenship.

Timeline of events:

- 1422 - Accession of Henry VI as infant.
- 1430 - Birth of Margaret of Anjou.
- 1437 - Henry VI assumes adult reign. Around this time, birth of Elizabeth Woodville.
- 1445 - Margaret of Anjou and Henry VI are wed.
- 1453 - Henry VI incapacitated by illness. Margaret of Anjou and Henry VI's son, Prince Edward of Westminster, is born.
- 1454 - Richard, Duke of York made Protector.
- 1455 - Henry VI recovers. Battle of St. Albans. Richard of York made Protector.
- 1456 - Birth of Anne Neville.
- 1460 - Richard of York and his heirs named heir to Henry VI. Richard of York is killed at the Battle of Wakefield.
- 1461 - Edward IV is declared king. Henry VI, Margaret of Anjou, and Edward of Westminster flee.
- 1464 - Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville wed in secret.
- 1465 - Elizabeth Woodville is crowned queen. Henry VI is captured and imprisoned in the Tower of London.
- 1466 - Birth of Elizabeth Woodville and Edward IV's first child, Elizabeth of York.
- 1469 - Edward IV is captured by Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, but released.
- 1470 - Warwick flees to France and allies with Margaret of Anjou. Warwick invades England, causing Edward IV to flee to Burgundy. Henry VI is restored. Anne Neville and Edward of Westminster are wed. Birth of Edward IV's heir, Edward.
- 1471 - Edward IV invades England. Warwick is killed at the Battle of Barnet. Edward of Westminster is killed at the Battle of Tewkesbury. Edward IV redeclares himself king. Henry VI dies. Margaret of Anjou is held prisoner.
- 1472 - Anne Neville weds Richard, Duke of Gloucester.
- 1473 or 1476 - Birth of Anne Neville and Richard, Duke of Gloucester's son, Edward of Middleham.
- 1475 - Margaret of Anjou is ransomed back to France.
- 1482 - Margaret of Anjou dies.
- 1483 - Edward IV dies. Edward V and his brother are murdered in the Tower of London, presumably on the orders of Richard, Duke of Gloucester. Richard Duke of Gloucester is crowned Richard III.
- 1484 - Prince Edward of Middleham dies.
- 1485 - Anne Neville dies of illness. Richard III dies at the Battle of Bosworth. Henry Tudor claims the throne as Henry VII.
- 1492 - Elizabeth Woodville dies.

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Family tree adapted and edited from Laynesmith, *The Last Medieval Queens*.

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