



ANNE HERBERT'S EXPERIENCES 1449 – 1486

	Events in Anne's Life	Anne's likely feelings and reactions
1449-1455		
1456-1461		
1461-1469		
1470-1482		
1483-1486		



Anne Herbert's Experiences 1449 – 1455

1449 – an agreement was made between Anne's father and William Herbert, an important landowner in Wales and on the Welsh border, for William's marriage to Anne. The marriage took place at her home at Weobley between 10 August and 30 November 1449. Anne's father agreed to pay a dowry of 500 marks and provide 'meat and drink' for William 'and forty of his men and their horses' and pay for Anne's 'apparrell competent pertaining to her degree'.

The marriage seems a logical one. Both fathers were important landowners on the Welsh border and had served in France under the command of the Duke of York. Anne's father was also one of the Duke of York's councillors so this strengthened William's links to York who was heir apparent to the crown and so a man well-worth being close to.

1450 – Anne and William were to have at least nine children but before any of them were born, she had the opportunity for responsibility at Raglan. Early in 1450 William joined an English army in Normandy but was captured at the battle of Formigny and had to pay a ransom for his freedom. During William's absence Anne took responsibility for the running of Raglan castle.

1455 – The years between 1450 and 1455 were dominated by a struggle between the Dukes of Somerset and York to be the King's chief councillor. William supported the Duke of York, becoming involved in a number of outbreaks of violence. In May 1455 Anne, then 22, was either in the last stages of pregnancy or recovering from the birth of her eldest son. At the same time her father, husband and perhaps her brother fought for York at the first battle of St. Albans against Somerset's army. They all survived and this was a small-scale battle but the dangers must have appeared no less to Anne than if it had been on a much larger scale.



Anne Herbert's Experiences 1456 – 1461

1456 – York's victory at the battle of St. Albans led to four years of peace but violence was never far away. In 1456 William and Anne's father, Walter Devereux, led 2000 men to recapture Carmarthen Castle for the Duke of York from King Henry's men. They succeeded but were soon put on trial for treason in front of King Henry and Queen Margaret. Anne's father was imprisoned but William was pardoned. Anne may have played a part in this pardon. Ladies of her rank were expected to act as intermediaries, seeking mercy in situations where it appeared unbecoming for men to do so. As the trial was in Hereford, only thirty miles from Raglan, Anne would have been able to plead with Queen Margaret who, aged 27, was only three years older than Anne herself.

1459 – Anne's father died in April 1459 but her brother, also called Walter, was just as loyal to the Duke of York. In October 1459 Walter was with York when he confronted the King's army near Ludlow. York fled. Walter was captured and attainted [convicted of treason] but he escaped execution after kneeling before Queen Margaret and begging for pardon.

1460 – How did the Herberts deal with being treated as traitors? They planned to present King Henry with a special gift, a richly illustrated, very expensive book that they had made. All books then were written and illustrated by hand. The first illustration shows William and Anne kneeling in front of the King, hands outstretched, perhaps appealing to King Henry. However the book wasn't completed before the Yorkists returned from exile and captured King Henry at the battle of Northampton. Now there was no longer need to please Henry. The unfinished book was collected by the Herbert and remained in their possession.

1461 – York was killed at the battle of Wakefield in December 1460 but his 18 year-old son, Edward, took over the leadership of the Yorkists. Sometime early in 1461 Anne said farewell to William and probably did not see him again for over three months. During that time William and Anne's brother Walter fought for Edward in his first victory, at Mortimer's Cross then accompanied him to London where Edward was proclaimed king. They then fought for Edward when he beat the Lancastrian army in the snow at Towton, confirming him as King Edward IV.



Anne Herbert's Experiences 1462 – 1469

1462-4 – William one of Edward IV's most trusted supporters. King Edward rewarded William with offices and lands. Both William and Walter Devereux were summoned to Parliament as members of the Lords. William was made a Knight of the Garter in 1462 and earl of Pembroke in 1468 after he captured Harlech castle, the last castle in Wales to surrender to King Edward.

William had the wealth to buy the wardships of Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland and of Henry Tudor earl of Richmond, aged 4 in 1461. William paid Edward IV £1000 for Henry's wardship and marriage because Henry was expected to become an important nobleman and the Herberts planned to marry him to their daughter Maud.

1460s – Raglan castle was filled with masons, sculptors, glaziers, tilers, painters and other craftsmen. William was ploughing his new wealth into creating a truly palatial home. Family and guest apartments had large, glass-filled windows, tapestries hung on the walls and the castle was surrounded by fruit orchards, gardens and a deer park. With William's absences frequent and lengthy, Anne played a major part in supervising the rebuilding. Estate accounts show her making purchases, receiving cash and paying creditors, the daily business of keeping a major building project on the move.

William was also absent from Raglan attending parliament and court. Anne presumably accompanied William to London in 1465 for the coronation of Edward's queen, Elizabeth Woodville and the marriage in 1466 of their eldest son, 11 year-old William, to Mary Woodville, 10 year-old sister of the queen.

1469 – Hostility developed between King Edward and his leading adviser, Richard Neville, earl of Warwick. Among the reasons was Warwick's anger at Edward's friendliness with other nobles, including William Herbert. In July 1469 Warwick rebelled. William and his brother Richard raised a Welsh force on behalf of King Edward and headed east to join another royal army led by the earl of Devon. Something went badly wrong and William's army faced Warwick's men alone at Edgecote on 24 July and were defeated. William was captured then executed two days later.

William wrote his will before he left Wales. In it William says that Anne should 'have the chief rule in performing my will and to be one of my executors' and implored her 'to take the mantle and the ring and live a widow'. Before his execution he added a codicil saying:

'and wife that you remember your promise to me to take the order of widowhood, as you may be the better master of your own to perform my will and help my children, as I love and trust you.'

William also added that he wishes Anne to 'pray for me, and take the said order that you promist me, as you had in my life my heart and love'. These words have strong echoes of the words 'as I love and trust you' in his will.



Anne Herbert's Experiences 1470 – 1482

Anne gave up her wardship of Henry of Richmond during the brief restoration of Henry VI (1470-1471) after amicable negotiations between her lawyers and those of Henry's mother, Margaret Beaufort. When Edward IV regained his crown young Henry fled to Brittany, ending the plans for him to marry Maud Herbert who instead married another of Anne's wards, Henry, earl of Northumberland.

The early 1470s saw Anne organizing the administration of her son's estates because he was too young to run them himself. Estate papers, accounts and numerous examples of payments, e.g. for repairs to buildings, all bear her writing, evidence of her supervision.

We also have a very different source shedding a little light on Anne. The 15th century was a great age for Welsh poets who wrote and recited poems in the houses of the great. One of the best-known was Guto'r Glyn, resident poet at Raglan.

In his poem 'To the Countess Anne of Raglan', Guto'r Glyn describes Anne variously as:

'A second Sibyl, wise and fair, from the court of Weobley.'

'An earl's wife was so faithful to her husband'

'There is not a better face to be found dressed in black'

It is worth noting that this poetry was in Welsh which suggests that Anne understood and perhaps spoke Welsh to at least some extent.



Anne Herbert's Experiences 1483 – 1486

1485 – The final dramas in Anne's story involve the battle of Bosworth when Anne was 52. Anne's former ward, Henry of Richmond, emerged as Richard III's rival for the crown. Four of Anne's family may have been involved when Henry faced Richard at Bosworth on 22 August 1485.

Anne's brother Walter Devereux was killed fighting for Richard III.

Anne's elder son William might have fought for Richard III because (after the death of his first wife) he'd married Richard's illegitimate daughter Katherine. However there is no evidence that William did fight at Bosworth.

Anne's second son Walter had grown up with Henry of Richmond at Raglan in the 1460s. Walter was one of the men sent by Richard III to intercept Henry as he marched out of Wales but Henry also had high hopes that Walter would join him. Walter certainly didn't make any attempt to stop Henry's march through Wales and may have fought for Henry but we don't know for certain. Even if Walter didn't join Henry his neutrality was useful.

Anne's son-in-law, Henry earl of Northumberland, lined up on Richard's side but took no part in the battle.

1486 – Several months after Bosworth Anne received a summons to London to meet her former ward, now King Henry VII, whom she'd last seen in 1471 when he was just fourteen. King Henry granted his 'most dear cousin' Anne 'safe passage to London' but no detail exists about what took place between them. However it is highly likely that it was a friendly meeting and that Henry's mother, Margaret Beaufort was there. Evidence suggests that Anne and Margaret had become friends in the 1460s.

Anne died in the early years of Henry VII's reign and was buried at Tintern Abbey alongside her husband William.



Background Information

Who's Who?

William Herbert, earl of Pembroke	Anne's husband.
Sir Walter Devereux	Anne's father
Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrers	Anne's brother
William and Walter Herbert	Anne's sons
Maud Herbert Percy,	Anne's daughter who married Henry earl of Northumberland
Henry Tudor (Henry VII)	Anne's ward 1461-1470
Margaret Beaufort	Mother of Henry Tudor

Who's King?

Henry VI (Lancaster)	1422-61
Edward IV (York)	1461-70
Henry VI (Lancaster)	1470-71
Edward IV (York)	1471-83
Edward V (York)	April-June 1483
Richard III (York)	1483-85
Henry VII (Tudor)	1485-1509



Background Information (cont.)

Table of events 1450-1461

- 1450-1455 Continuing disputes between Dukes of Somerset and York over who would be Henry VI's chief councillor.
- 1455 Battle of St. Albans between armies of York and Somerset. Somerset killed.
- 1455-1459 Period of uneasy peace
- 1459 Beginning of sequence of battles which lasted until March 1461.
Flight of Yorkists into exile from Ludford; attainder of Yorkists in Parliament.
- 1460 Yorkists return and win battle of Northampton; York claims throne and accepted by nobles as Henry VI's heir. York killed at battle of Wakefield.
- 1461 Edward of York victorious at battles of Mortimer's Cross and Towton, establishing himself as King Edward IV.

How much was it worth?

Estimating the modern value of sums of money from the past is notoriously difficult. However the converter on the National Archives website offers the following estimates for amounts mentioned in this article.

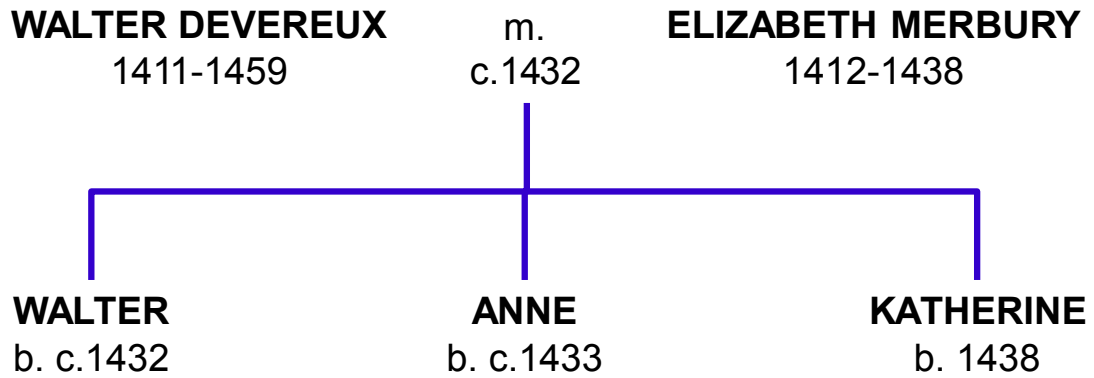
£100 left to Anne by her grandfather – around £50,000

500 marks for Anne's dowry – around £160,000

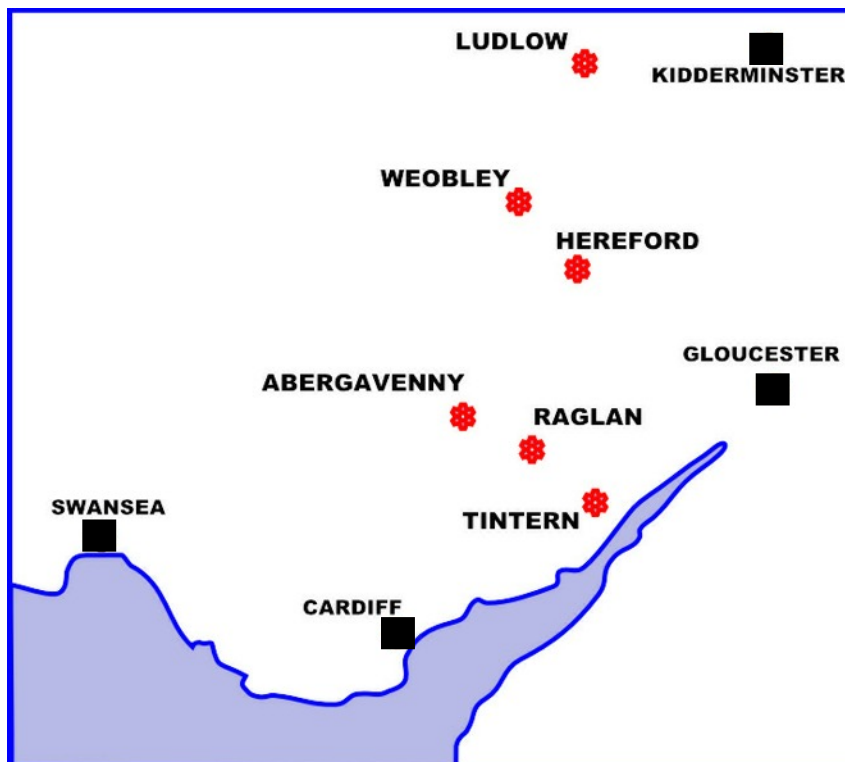
£1,000 paid by William for wardship of Henry Tudor – around £500,000



ANNE HERBERT'S FAMILY TREE



MAP OF SOUTH WALES



Key



Relevant to Anne Herbert's life



Included for reference only