

# Early Years

## Richard's Early Years

Richard was born at Fotheringhay, Northamptonshire on 2 October 1452 into the House of York. He was the youngest child and fourth son. His brother Edward won the throne at the battle of Towton in 1461 and became Edward IV.



*Fotheringhay.*

Edward married Elizabeth Woodville, a Lancastrian widow in 1464. Legend has it that they met under an oak tree at Grafton Regis and married in secret. They had many children including Edward and Richard who became the ill-fated 'Princes in the Tower'. Unfortunately the meteoric rise of the new Queen's family, the Woodvilles, upset many of Edward's existing supporters.



*Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville. Source: National Portrait Gallery.*

Little is known of Richard's early life. He was still a child when his brother became King, but we know that before he was 20 he had played a major role in putting down a coup to depose Edward. This was staged by their brother George, Duke of Clarence and the Earl of Warwick. He accompanied Edward in exile to continental Europe and took part in the major battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury in 1471 which restored his brother to the throne.



*Battle of Barnet  
painted in the late 15th century.*

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