The ‘Wars of the Roses’ describes a long conflict between two rival branches of Royal family, the descendants of the Dukes of York and Lancaster, and their supporters. The conflict at the time was known as The Cousin’s Wars. Virtually all of the major landowning families of the time were involved in the wars, but family ambition and long-standing feuds turned some powerful families into key players. Many of the families were allied by political marriages, but in times of war this often put sisters and daughters on opposing sides to their brothers and parents. Those involved in the struggles rarely died of old age!

**The Neville Family**

**The Percy Family**
Arch-enemies of the Neville family and therefore Lancastrian - until the 4th earl befriended Richard of Gloucester.

**The Woodvilles and Greys**
Lancastrian turned Yorkist then confused!

**The Beaufort Family**
Staunchly Lancastrian with long term feud against Richard of York and King Edward IV.