

THE BATTLE OF WAKEFIELD REVISITED: A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON RICHARD OF YORK'S FINAL BATTLE, DECEMBER 1460

By Helen Cox

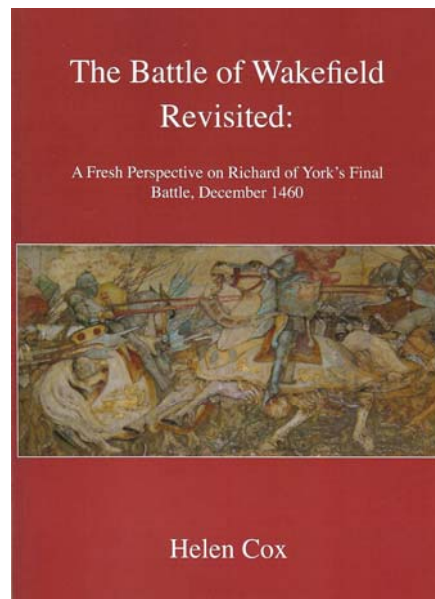
Medieval history/non-fiction

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On 30th December 1460, the veteran warlord Richard of York led his small army to catastrophic defeat at the Battle of Wakefield – and the reason for his suicidal decision has been misunderstood ever since. Traditionally, York is thought to be a poor commander, arrogant and reckless, who is deservedly mocked in nursery rhyme; or an heroic failure who gallantly attempted to rescue a foraging party, punish enemy perfidy or avenge insults to his honour. But **The Battle of Wakefield Revisited** explores a more convincing explanation for York's conduct, using historical and archaeological evidence to dispel these popular misconceptions about the Duke and his ill-fated northern campaign.

'This thoughtful, perceptive account discusses various 'myths' surrounding the Battle of Wakefield, including the alleged incompetence of the Duke of York, and convincingly disposes of them. An excellent book based on a thorough study of the sources' - Peter Hammond, President of the Richard III Society and author of **The Battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury**

'A new study which eloquently pieces together theory, facts and insights to paint a compelling picture of Richard, Duke of York and his journey to one of the nation's most pivotal battles - via the most convincing account of the 'Battle' of Worksop I have ever read' - Mark Taylor, Chairman of Towton Battlefield Society

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- **Introduction:** Traditional views of the battle and York as a ‘failure’
- **Enter the Protagonists:** Historical prelude from Edward II to Henry V; introduction to Henry VI, Margaret of Anjou and Richard of York
- **The Road to War:** The upheavals of the 1450’s and York’s claim to the throne
- **Dispelling the Myths:** Critical analysis of accepted accounts, including the alleged destruction of York’s vanguard at Worksop, the role of foragers in his defeat and the ‘ambush from the woods’ theory
- **The *Real* Battle of Wakefield?** An alternative interpretation of the Duke’s decision to ride out, and the role of Edmund, Earl of Rutland
- **The Fate of the Vanquished:** What became of the Yorkists – and their conquerors
- **Finding Proof Positive:** Suggestions for further research and fieldwork to support or refute various theories
- **A Nursery Rhyme Duke?** Analysis of whether Richard Plantagenet really *was* the ‘Grand Old Duke of York’
- **Afterword:** Who should we blame for the Battle of Wakefield?

For further information, see Helen’s website www.helencox-herstorywriting.co.uk

The Battle of Wakefield Revisited will be available from mid-June at £12 plus postage & packing from York Publishing Services. It can be ordered on-line from www.YPD-books.com, or by telephoning 01904 431213.