Descending from ALEXANDER WISEMAN in 1300 AD

LIFE & TIMES of Viscount WISEMAN of FORRES & NAIRN, Nairnshire, Scotland

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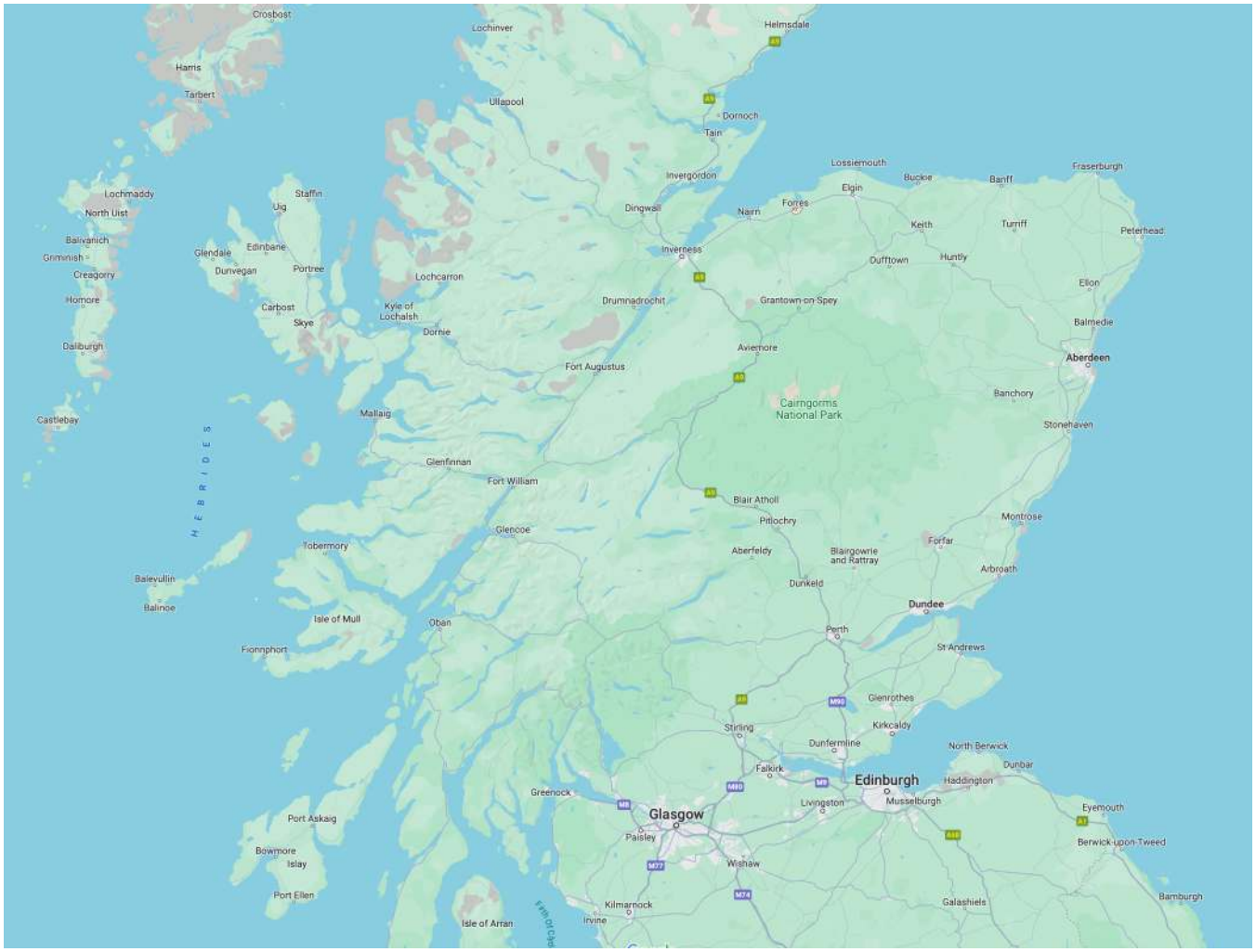
HISTORY of the FAMILY of Sir ALEXANDER WISEMAN (1300 - 1370).

■ **SIR ALEXANDER WISEMAN was a Scottish nobleman who was appointed in 1305 as the SHERIFF of FORRES and NAIRN.**

- *FORRES is a Town and former Royal Burgh in the north of Scotland on the Moray Coast, approximately 25 miles northeast of INVERNESS and 12 miles west of ELGIN.*

- *NAIRN is a Town and Royal Burgh in the Highland Council area of Scotland. It is an ancient Fishing Port and Market Town around 17 miles (27 km) east of INVERNESS, at the point where the River Nairn enters the Moray Firth. It is the traditional COUNTY TOWN of NAIRNSHIRE.*

MAP OF NORTHERN SCOTLAND
(SHOWING INVERNESS, NAIRN, FORRES, AND ELGIN)



■ **ALEXANDER WISEMAN was born in 1300 AD, in England. He was the son of WILLIAM WISEMAN (1280-1346), the Sheriff of ELGIN.**

ALEXANDER WISEMAN was born into a period of significant turmoil and transition in Scottish history. Around the year of his birth in 1300, SCOTLAND was embroiled in the WAR of SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE against ENGLAND. The struggle for Scottish independence had begun following the death of the Scottish KING ALEXANDER III in 1286 and the subsequent succession crisis. By the time of Alexander Wiseman's birth, WILLIAM WALLACE had already risen and fallen as a leader in the Resistance against English rule, and ROBERT the BRUCE was emerging as a pivotal figure in Scotland's fight for sovereignty.

■ **Alexander's brother, Sir WILLIAM WISEMAN, who died on October 17, 1346, likely participated in the ongoing conflicts between SCOTLAND and ENGLAND. His death date coincides with the BATTLE OF NEVILLE'S CROSS, where the Scots suffered a devastating defeat at the hands of the English. This battle was part of the wider HUNDRED YEARS' WAR that also involved FRANCE and other European powers. It is possible that Sir WILLIAM WISEMAN was among the many Scots who fought and perished in this engagement.**

■ **Alexander's son, SIMON WISEMAN, lived through one of the most catastrophic pandemics in human history - the BLACK DEATH. Born around 1330, Simon would have been a young man when the PLAGUE reached Scotland in the late 1340s.**
The BLACK DEATH ravaged Europe between 1347 and 1351, killing an estimated one-third to one- half of the population. Its impact on social structures, economies, and daily life was profound, leading to labor shortages and significant changes in feudal societies across the continent.

■ **By the time of his death in 1370, SIR ALEXANDER WISEMAN had witnessed a Scotland that had endured both war and pestilence but had managed to retain its independence. The latter half of his life saw the reign of King DAVID II, the son of ROBERT THE BRUCE, and the beginning of the STEWART DYNASTY with the accession of ROBERT II in 1371. These were times of relative peace internally, allowing Scotland to recover from the earlier decades of conflict and disease. Sir ALEXANDER'S legacy, like that of many nobles of his era, would be tied to these tumultuous events that shaped the nation's history.**

WISEMAN FAMILY IN ESSEX, ENGLAND

The surname WISEMAN was first found in ESSEX, ENGLAND where they "belong to the distinguished families of Rivenhall, Northend, Great Baddow, Felstead, etc., and played an important part in the County and frequently served as HIGH SHERIFFS."

FAMILY COAT OF ARMS

- **One of the first records of the family was RANULPH WISMAN who witnessed a Charter of BEATRIX DE SAY, circa 1140, in favour of the Augustinian House of Waltham Abbey, Essex. (BEATRIX was the wife of GEOFFREY FITZPIERS, Chief Justiciary of England.)**

- **REGINALD WISMAN of Essex was listed in 1194.**

- **By the 13th Century, variable records of the "WISEMAN" name were scattered around Britain, as seen by the Hundredorum Rolls of 1273 which listed ROGER WYSEINAN of Oxfordshire; ALAN WYSMAN of Cambridgeshire; and JOHN WYSMAN of Oxfordshire. The Yorkshire Poll Tax Rolls of 1379 listed JOHANNES WYSMAN and PETRUS WYSMAN.**

- **Further to the North in Scotland, WISEMAN was an old surname in the Medieval Earldoms of Angus and Moray. ANDREA WYSMAN witnessed excambion of the lands of Dolays Mychel in 1232, and in the following year attested a Confirmation Charter by Andrew, Bishop of Moray.**
  - *In Scots law, "excambion" is the exchange of land. The Deed whereby this is effected is termed "Contract of Excambion".*

- **THOMAS WISMAN, Provost of Elgin (PRESIDING OFFICER of an Ecclesiastical body) was one of an INQUEST concerning the King's Garden there in 1261, and he and WILLIAM WISMAN were Jurors on an Inquest in Elgin concerning the lands of Mefth in 1262.**

- **WILLIAM WYSMAN witnessed a Charter by the Earl of Ross, 1263, designed 'de Fores' in 1266, circa 1278 and 1286 attested Charters bv HUGH HEROCK, Burgess of Elgin. He may be the WILLIAM WYSMAN (born 1275) of Elginshire, who rendered homage at Elgin, 1295, and was appointed SHERIFF OF ELGIN, 1305.**
  (He was the Father of VISCOUNT ALEXANDER WISEMAN (1300 - 1370).

- **ADAM WISEMAN made a grant of lands to COLDINGHAM PRIORY, 1285.**

- **WILLIAM WISEMAN obtained from David in the barony of Don forfeited by David de Strabolgi, and Willelmus Wyseman, senior, and Willelmus Wyseman, junior, were jurors on an inquest held regarding the episcopal lands of Aldrochty, in 1393.**

- **PATRICK WYSMAN** was admitted **Burgess of Aberdeen**, in 1484, and **MARION WYSEMAN** is recorded in Goslingtown, Stanehaven, in 1630.

- **The WISEMAN Family has produced a number of outstanding Religious Leaders. Prominent are GENERAL CLARENCE WISEMAN, head of the Salvation Army, 1974-1977, and CARDINAL NICHOLAS PATRICK WISEMAN, 1802-1865, first Archbishop of Westminister.**

- **Some were mercinaries and fought in the armies of many European Countries. They were well represented in WW1 and in WW2 and many were killed in action. Several have been prominent in the British Armed Forces and include LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SOMERSET MOLYNEUX WISEMAN-CLARKE, Commanding Officer of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers Regiment (1903), and REAR ADMIRAL SIR WILLIAM SALTONSTALL WISEMAN.**

- **A modern military hero was LIEUTENANT OSBORNE BEEMAN WISEMAN. He was a pilot during the Battle of Midway, WW2. As a result of his bravery he was awarded the Navy Cross and the USS WISEMAN DE 667 was named for him.**
  - **USS Wiseman (DE-667) was a Buckley-class Destroyer Escort in service with the United States Navy for several periods between 1944 and 1973.**

The foregoing WISEMAN FAMILY MEMBERS were among the original settlers in Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand.

The list of family notables, and achievements is respectable.

- **There is a current BARON WISEMAN and an original Knighthood was conferred on SIR JOHN WYSEMAN in 1513 by King HENRY 8th. The honour resulted from Sir John's bravery in action at the BATTLE OF SPURS in the 100-Years War.**

SIR ALEXANDER WISEMAN (1300 - 1370)

VISCOUNT OF FORRES & NAIRN, SCOTLAND.

SIR ALEXANDER WISEMAN was born into a period of significant turmoil and transition in Scottish history. Around the year 1300, when he was born, Scotland was embroiled in the Wars of Scottish Independence against England. The struggle for Scottish independence had begun following the death of KING ALEXANDER III in 1286 and the subsequent succession crisis.

KING ALEXANDER III

By the time of ALEXANDER WISEMAN'S birth, in 1300 WILLIAM WALLACE had already risen and fallen as a leader in the resistance against English rule, and ROBERT THE BRUCE was emerging as a pivotal figure in Scotland's fight for sovereignty.

WILLIAM WALLACE

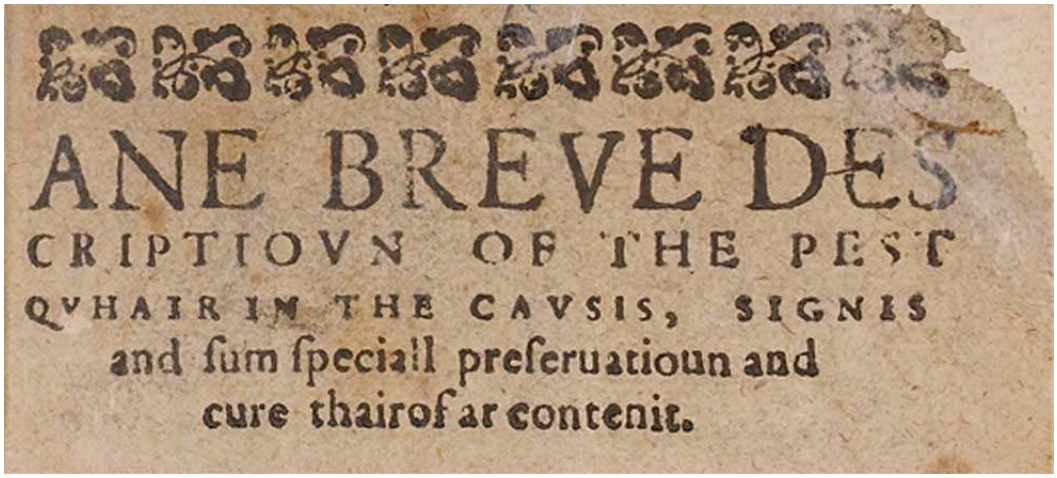
Alexander Wiseman's brother, SIR WILLIAM WISEMAN, who died on October 17, 1346, likely participated in the ongoing conflicts between Scotland and England. His death date coincides with the BATTLE OF NEVILLE'S CROSS, where the Scots suffered a devastating defeat at the hands of the English. This battle was part of the wider HUNDRED YEARS' WAR that also involved FRANCE and other European powers. It is possible that Sir WILLIAM was among the many Scots who fought and perished in this engagement.

SIMON WISEMAN, Alexander's son, lived through one of the most catastrophic pandemics in human history - THE BLACK DEATH. Born around 1330, Simon would have been a young man when the PLAGUE reached SCOTLAND in the late 1340s. The Black Death ravaged EUROPE between 1347 and 1351, killing an estimated one-third to one- half of the population. Its impact on social structures, economies, and daily life was profound, leading to labor shortages and significant changes in feudal societies across the continent.

By the time of his death in 1370, Sir ALEXANDER WISEMAN had witnessed a Scotland that had endured both WAR and PESTILENCE but had managed to retain its independence.

The latter half of his life would have seen the reign of DAVID II, the son of ROBERT THE BRUCE, and the beginning of the STEWART DYNASTY with the accession of ROBERT II in 1371. These were times of relative peace internally, allowing Scotland to recover from the earlier decades of conflict and disease. SIR ALEXANDER'S LEGACY, like that of many nobles of his era, would be tied to these tumultuous events that shaped the nation's history.

PLAGUE IN SCOTLAND : Outbreak



"A Brief Description of the Pest" by Maister GILBERT SKEYNE, Doctoure in Medicine, 1568.

According to some witnesses, the first of these OUTBREAKS caused the death of up to a third of the population. While SCOTLAND saw two major outbreaks of PLAGUE in the 15th Century, she continued to suffer even more serious Plague Outbreaks during the entire 16th Century. It affected mostly the Central Belt of the Country, but also Dumfries, Fife, St Andrews, Dundee, Aberdeen and Elgin.

There is little recorded evidence of the PLAGUE affecting the HIGHLANDS and ISLANDS, but occasional references and the fact that folk-medicine remedies against the Plague existed suggest that these sparsely inhabited areas also experienced Plague Outbreaks.

Epidemics and more contained incidents in Scotland went on at short intervals until the mid-17th Century. However, the GREAT PLAGUE of 1665-1667 did not reach Scotland. To a large extent, this was due to the preventive measures put into place by the Scottish Government. The PRIVY COUNCIL passed a series of Acts which forbid trade with Countries affected by the Plague, in particular ENGLAND and the NETHERLANDS.

Even after the disease had dwindled there, further Acts of Government imposed a 40-DAY QUARANTINE on goods imported from these places. Economically, such an interruption of trade was very disruptive, not least since ENGLAND and the NETHERLANDS were two of SCOTLAND'S main trading partners.

LESSONS LEARNED ?

The recent CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC did not kill anything like the percentage of deaths caused by the PLAGUE in 1665-66, otherwise we might be looking at a death toll in LONDON alone of between 1-Million and 2-Million people. Still, there are lessons to be drawn from that Era, and one of them is to question the efficacy of the so-called FOUR-NATIONS APPROACH and why the SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT has not closed the BORDER with ENGLAND – or at least set up Checkpoints to ensure that people coming here from South of the Border are not carrying the DISEASE.

For back in 1665, that is exactly what happened and the Great Plague of London did not spread to Scotland because the Border was closed and all trade between Scotland and infected areas of England was halted.

Many politicians, pundits and citizens have since discussed the idea of closing the Border with England to ensure that the worse rate of infection down south does not spread to here.

WHY EMIGRATION BECAME PART OF SCOTTISH CULTURE

Nobody mentions 1665 today – ignorance of Scottish history remains widespread – and many people maintain it had never happened before, but if you know what occurred then you will conclude that it is just plain wrong to say that no such border closure has ever happened before.

Though there have been outbreaks of BUBONIC PLAGUE regularly since its first visitation to these islands in the 1340s, none was quite so devastating as that first PANDEMIC in which a third of the population of Europe are thought to have died.

That was until 1665, when Britain experienced its first true "METROPOLITAN PLAGUE". In about the space of a Century before the GREAT PLAGUE, the City of London's population had quadrupled to over 400,000 and the rapid expansion of the City, coupled with huge demand on space, meant vast numbers of people crowded into a smaller and smaller number of living rooms.

Conditions were UNSANITARY, with SEWAGE flowing down streets and into the River Thames, which had become a CESSPOOL in many places.

MEDICINE was in its infancy, there was no cure apart from GOOD LUCK, and when the PLAGUE arrived it spread quickly and lethally, killing up to 100,000 people. KING CHARLES II and his Court left the City, but the King tackled the outbreak from afar with strict and effective instructions issued in his name.

He did not forget his other Kingdom, SCOTLAND, which was governed in his name by the Privy Council when the Scottish Parliament was not sitting – and that was most of the time. Remember, it was only 5-years since the Monarchy had been restored, largely by GENERAL GEORGE MONCK leading a mainly Scottish force south to put CHARLES II on both thrones – or back on one of them, as CHARLES had been crowned KING OF SCOTS from 1649 to 1651 until CROMWELL came north and conquered Scotland for his "COMMONWEALTH".

SCOTLAND had learned a very bitter lesson in the 1640s. PLAGUE struck the Country in almost every Town and City and, while rural Scotland was largely spared, almost all centres of population were affected with tens of thousands dying. The SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT and Local Councils reacted by drafting new and completely draconian rules that stopped people even visiting nearby plague centres, never mind trading with them.

The harshness of that outbreak informed the Scottish Government's plans to tackle any future threat of Plague. We do not know if Charles personally approved what happened after the outbreak in London was reported to Edinburgh, but it is extremely unlikely that he did not know what was being done in his name in Scotland.

On hearing of the LONDON DISASTER, the Privy Council took prompt and effective measures, and that included closing the Border as well as stopping trade. As the National Library of Scotland records:

> **"The Privy Council passed a series of acts which forbid trade with countries affected by the plague, in particular England and the Netherlands. Even after the disease had dwindled there, further acts imposed a 40-day quarantine on goods imported from these places.**
>
> **"Economically, such an interruption of trade was very disruptive, not least since England and the Netherlands were two of Scotland's main trading partner."**

But the SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT was determined to put lives before money, and thankfully still does…

We still have that decree about trade. It is called the PROCLAMATION DISCHARGING TRADE AND COMMERCE WITH THE CITY OF LONDON, AND OTHER PLACES OF THE KINGDOM OF ENGLAND, SUSPECTED OF THE PLAGUE. It was published in Edinburgh on December 21, 1665.

It reads: "The Lords of his Majesties Privy Council, taking to their serious consideration, that albeit by the Infinite Mercy of GOD, this Kingdom hath been hitherto preserved from the Plague of Pestilence, which hath long continued at LONDON, and broken out in many other Towns and Places of the Kingdom of ENGLAND; yet the danger and fear of infection is as great as it hath been heretofore, by the resort of many People and Merchants to the City of London, and other places suspected, for beginning Commerce and Trade, and adventuring to bring into this Kingdom all commodities as formerly, albeit the Plague is not yet altogether ceased, and that all goods and merchandise to be imported from thence, may be yet justly suspected."

Behind the biggest wave of IMMIGRATION into Scotland

At the same time the Border was closed, so were the various Ports, with anyone attempting to enter SCOTLAND or bring GOODS in was either turned away, fined or imprisoned and their goods often confiscated and burned. The SCOTTISH people went into virtual "LOCKDOWN" at the same time.

Lindsay and Renwick's HISTORY OF GLASGOW tells us what happened there:

"In Glasgow, for instance, the Master of Works was ordered with diligence to repair the City Gates, and by tuck of drum (drum beat) the Town's folk were ordered to shut all entries by their Closes and Yards under pain of a 100-Pound Fine and further personal Punishment."

IT WORKED. Not a single case of BUBONIC PLAGUE appeared in Scotland.

What's the difference between 1665 and 2020? Just the ACT OF UNION which means "SCOTLAND DOESN'T HAVE A BORDER TO CLOSE", or so the UK Government says.

The Scots would seek to change this…!

BLACK DEATH in the Middle Ages

ENGLAND IN THE MID-14TH CENTURY

The BATTLE OF CRECY established England as a military power.

It is impossible to establish with any certainty the exact number of inhabitants in England at the eve of the Black Death, and estimates range from 3 to 7 million.

The number is probably in the higher end, and an estimate of around 6 million inhabitants seems likely. Earlier demographic crises – in particular the GREAT FAMINE of 1315 - 1317 had resulted in great numbers of deaths, but there is no evidence of any significant decrease in the population prior to 1348. England was still a predominantly rural and agrarian society; close to 90 percent of the population lived in the countryside.

Of the major cities, LONDON was in a class of its own, with perhaps as many as 70,000 inhabitants. Further down the scale were Norwich, with around 12,000 people, and York with around 10,000.

The main export, and the source of the nation's wealth, was wool. Until the middle of the century the export had consisted primarily in raw wool sold to cloth makers in Flanders, Belgium. Gradually the technology for cloth making used on the Continent was appropriated by English manufacturers, who started an export of cloths around mid-century that would boom over the following decades.

Politically, ENGLAND was evolving into a major European power, through the youthful and energetic kingship of Edward III. In 1346, the English had won a decisive battle over the Scots at the BATTLE OF NEVILLE'S CROSS, and it seemed that EDWARD III would realize his grandfather Edward I's ambition of bringing the Scots under the suzerainty of the English Crown.

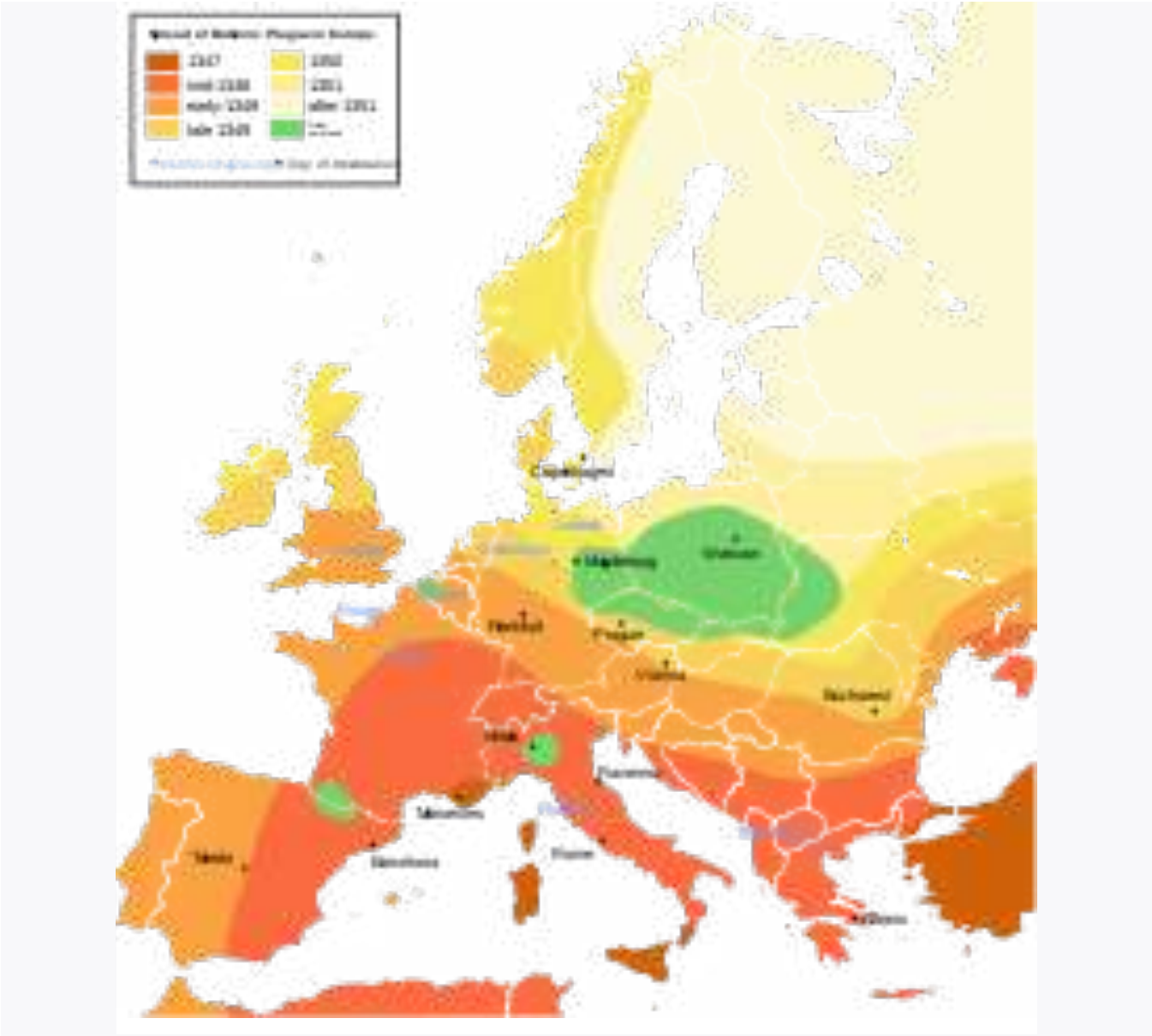
> **Suzerainty is any relationship in which one region or polity controls the foreign policy and relations of a tributary state, while allowing the tributary state to have internal autonomy.**

WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL
at St. John's Church,
NEVILLE'S CROSS, Durham,
England

The English were also experiencing military success on the Continent. Less than two months before the Battle of Neville's Cross, a numerically inferior English Army led by KING EDWARD himself won a spectacular victory over the French royal forces at the BATTLE OF CRECY.

The victory was immediately followed by King Edward laying s*i*ege to the PORT CITY OF CALAIS. When the City fell the next year, this provided the English with a strategically important enclave that would remain in their possession for over two Centuries.

The migration of the Black Death across Europe



The term "BLACK DEATH" (which refers to the first and most serious outbreak of the Second Pandemic) was not used by contemporaries, who preferred such names as the "GREAT PESTILENCE" or the "GREAT MORTALITY". It was not until the 17th. Century that the term under which we know the outbreak today became common, probably derived from Scandinavian languages.

It is generally agreed today that the disease in question was THE PLAGUE, caused by YERSINIA PESTIS BACTERIA.

These bacteria are carried by fleas, which can be transferred to humans through contact with rats. Flea bites carry the disease into the lymphatic system, through which it makes its way to the lymph nodes. Here the bacteria multiply, and form swellings called buboes, from which the term bubonic plague, is derived. After three or four days the bacteria enter the bloodstream and infect organs such as the spleen and the lungs. The patient will then normally die after a few days.

The PNEUMONIC PLAGUE

This is a different strain of the disease where the bacteria become airborne and enter directly into the patient's lungs. This strain is far more virulent, as it spreads directly from person to person. These types of infection probably both played a significant part in the Black Death, while a third strain was rarer.

This is the SEPTICEMIC PLAGUE, where the FLEA BITE carries the bacteria directly into the blood stream, and death occurs very rapidly.

A Study reported in 2011 of skeletons exhumed from the Black Death Cemetery in East Smithfield, London found YERSINIA PESTIS DNA. An archaeological dig in the vicinity of THORNTON ABBEY in Lincolnshire was reported in the Science Section of THE GUARDIAN journal for November 30, 2016, not only confirming evidence of Y. pestis DNA in the human remains exhumed there, but also dating the remains to mid-1349.

GENOTYPING showed that it was [at that time] a newly evolved Strain, ancestor of all modern strains and it proved the Black Death was Bubonic Plague.

Modern medical knowledge suggests that because it was a new strain, the human immune system would have had little or no defence against it, helping to explain the Plague's virulence and high death rates.

The BLACK DEATH probably originated in CENTRAL ASIA, where Y. Pestis Bacterium is endemic in the rodent population. It is unknown exactly what caused the outbreak, but a series of natural occurrences likely brought humans into contact with the infected rodents. The epidemic reached CONSTANTINOPLE in the late Spring of 1347, through Genoese merchants trading in the Black Sea.

From here it reached SICILY in October that same year, and by early 1348 it had spread over the entire Italian mainland. It spread rapidly through France and had reached as far north as Paris by June 1348. Moving simultaneously westward, it arrived in the English province of Gascony around the same time.

PROGRESS OF THE PLAGUE

In 1348, in MELCOMBE, in the County of Dorset, a little before the Feast of St. John the Baptist, two ships, one of them from BRISTOL, came alongside. One of the sailors had brought with him from Gascony the seeds of the terrible pestilence and through him the men of the Town of Melcombe were the first in England to be infected.

GREY FRIARS' CHRONICLE

According to the Chronicle of the Grey Friars at Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England the source of the PLAGUE (aka BLACK DEATH) arrived by ship from GASCONY, South-West France to MELCOMBE, Dorset, England (today called WEYMOUTH) shortly before the Feast of St. John The Baptist on 24 June 1348. Other sources mention different points of arrival, including BRISTOL and SOUTHAMPTON.

> The GREYFRIARS' CHRONICLE was a Chronicle during the Tudor period. It was published in 1852 and was edited by J.G. Nichols. It documents Political and Religious events in and around LONDON, England from the reign of Richard I to the reign of Mary I. Most of its content is 16th. Century.

Though the PLAGUE might have arrived independently at BRISTOL at a later point, the GREY FRIARS' CHRONICLE is considered the most authoritative account. If it is assumed that the Chronicle reports the first outbreak of the Plague, rather than its actual arrival, then the arrival most likely happened around 8 May 1348.

From MELCOMBE (now called WEYMOUTH) in Dorset the disease spread rapidly across the South-West of England. The first major City to be struck was BRISTOL. The disease reached LONDON in the Autumn of 1348, before infecting most of the surrounding countryside. This had certainly happened by November, though according to some accounts as early as 29 September, 1348.

Arrival in LONDON happened by three principal roads: overland from WEYMOUTH through SALISBURY and WINCHESTER – overland from GLOUCESTER, and along the English Channel coast by ship. The full effect of the Plague was felt in the English Capital, LONDON, early the next year.

Conditions in LONDON were ideal for the Plague: the streets were narrow and flowing with sewage, and houses were overcrowded and poorly ventilated.

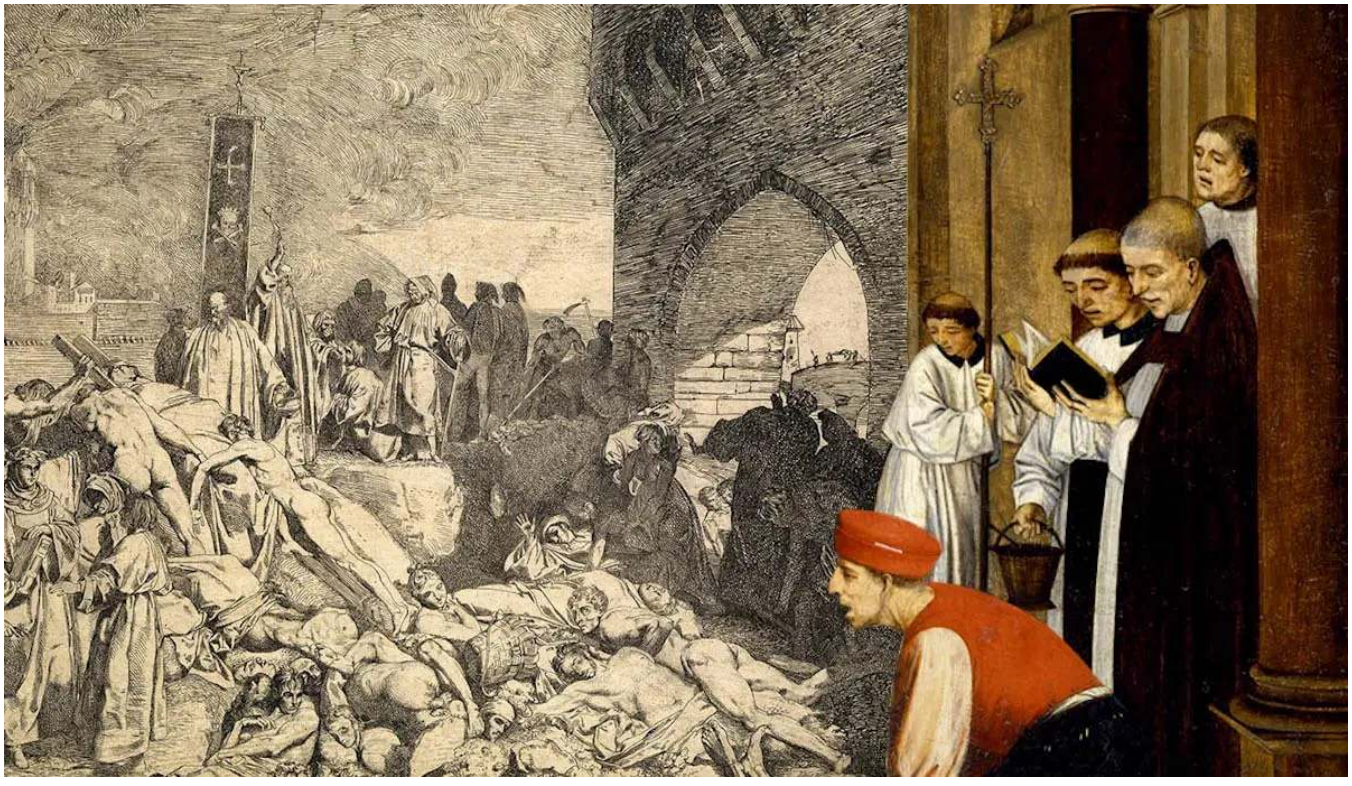
By March 1349 the disease was spreading haphazardly across all of Southern England.

During the first half of 1349 the BLACK DEATH spread Northwards. A second front opened up when the Plague arrived by ship at the Humber, after which it spread both south and north.

> **The HUMBER is a large tidal estuary on the east coast of Northern England. It is formed at Trent Falls, Faxfleet, by the confluence of the tidal rivers Ouse and Trent. From there to the North Sea, it forms part of the boundary between the East Riding of YORKSHIRE on the north bank and NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE on the south bank. Although the Humber is an estuary from the point at which it is formed, many maps show it as the "River Humber".**

The BLACK DEATH reached YORK, in May 1349 and during the Summer months of June, July and August, it ravaged the north of ENGLAND. Certain northern Counties, such as DURHAM and CUMBERLAND, had been the victim of violent incursions from the Scots, and were therefore left particularly vulnerable to the devastations of the Plague. Pestilence is less virulent during the Winter months, and spreads less rapidly. The Black Death in ENGLAND had survived the Winter of 1348–1349, but during the following Winter it burned itself out, and by December 1349 conditions were returning to relative normality.

It had taken the Disease approximately 500 days to traverse the entirety of ENGLAND.



MEDICAL PRACTICE

Various methods were used including SWEATING, BLOODLETTING, FORCED VOMITING, and URINATING to treat patients infected with the Plague.

Several symptoms of the illness included BLOTCHES, HARDENING of the GLANDS under the groin and underarms, and DEMENTIA.

Within the initial phase of the disease BLOODLETTING was performed on the same side of where the physical manifestations of the buboes or risings appeared. For instance, if a rising appeared on the right side of the groin the physician would bleed a vein in the ankle on the same side.

In the case of SWEATING, it was achieved with Medicines, including:

- MITHRIDATE, is a semi-mythical remedy with as many as 65 ingredients, used as an antidote for poisoning, and said to have been created by the Parthian King, Mithridates VI, King of Pontus in the 1st Century BC.
- VENICE TREACLE or Theriaca Andromachi contained 64 ingredients. In addition to Viper flesh and Opium, it included Cinnamon, Agarics and Gum Arabic. The ingredients were pulverized and reduced to an electuary with honey.
- MATTHIOLUS or Matthiola is a genus of flowering plant in the mustard family Brassicaceae.
- BEZOAR WATER - Bezoars can affect the lining of the digestive tract and make it bleed.
- SERPENTARY ROOTS - Stimulant, tonic and diaphoretic, properties resembling those of valerian and cascarilla. Too large doses occasion nausea, griping pains in the bowels, sometimes vomiting .
- ELECTUARIUM De OVO - A stiff paste of powdered egg mixed with clarified honey and sugar.

SWEATING was used when measures were desperate; if a patient had "tokens", a severe version of "risings", the physician would wrap the naked patient in a blanket drenched in cold water. This measure was only performed while the patient still had natural heat in his system. The desired effect was to make the patient sweat violently and thus purge all corruption from the blood which was caused by the disease.

Another practice was the use of **PIGEONS** when treating swellings. Swellings which were white in appearance and deep were unlikely to break and were anointed with Oil of Lillies or Camomile. Once the swelling rose to a head and was red in appearance and not deep in the flesh, it was broken with the use of a feather from a young pigeon's tail. The feather's fundament was held to the swelling and would draw out the venom.

However, if the swelling dropped and became black in appearance, the physician had to be cautious when drawing the cold from the swelling. If it was too late to prevent, the physician would take the young Pigeon, cut it open from breast to back, break it open and apply the Pigeon (while still alive) over the cold swelling. The Cupping Therapy was an alternative method which was heated and then placed over the swellings.

Once the sore was broken, the physician would apply Mellilot Plaister with Linimentum Arcei and heal the sore with digence.

RULES AND ORDERS to Prevent the Spreading of Infection of the PLAGUE.

(To be observed by all Justices of Peace, Mayors, Bayliffs, and other Officers, Published by His Majesties Special Command.)

[Orders 1-5 say that no Stranger was allowed to enter a Town unless they had a Certificate of Health. No furniture was to be removed from an infected house. There were to be no PUBLIC GATHERINGS such as FUNERALS and all houses were to be kept clean.]

6. That FIRES in moveable PANS, or otherwise, be made in all necessary PUBLIC MEETINGS in Churches, &c. and convenient FUMES to correct the AIR be burnt thereon.

7. That care be taken that no UNWHOLESOME MEATS, STINKING FISH, FLESH, MUSTY CORN, or any other UNWHOLESOME FOOD be exposed to sale in any SHOPS or MARKETS.

8. That no SWINE, DOGS, CATS or tame PIGEONS be permitted to pass up and down in Streets, or from house to house, in places Infected.

9. That the Laws against Inn-Mates be forthwith put in strict execution, and that no more Alehouses be Licensed than are absolutely necessary in each City or place, especially during the continuance of this present Contagion.

10. That each City and Town forthwith provide some convenient place remote from the same, where a PEST-HOUSE, HUTS, or SHEDS may be erected, to be in readiness in case any INFECTION should break out; which if it shall happen to do, That able and faithful SEARCHERS and EXAMINERS be forthwith provided and SWORN to SEARCH ALL SUSPECTED BODIES, for the usual signs of the PLAGUE, viz. SWELLINGS or RISINGS under the Ears or Arm-pits, or upon the Groynes; Blains, Carbuncles, or little Spots, either on the Breast or back, commonly called Tokens.

11. That if any HOUSE be Infected, the SICK PERSON OR PERSONS be forthwith removed to the said Pest-House, Sheds, or Huts, for the preservation of the rest of the Family: And that such house (though none be dead therein) be SHUT UP FOR FORTY DAYS, and have a RED CROSS, and "Lord have mercy upon us", in Capital Letters affixed on the door, and Warders appointed, as well to find them necessaries, as to keep them from conversing with the sound (persons).

12. That, at the opening of each INFECTED HOUSE (after the expiration of the said Forty Days) a WHITE CROSS be affixed on the said door, there to remain Twenty Days more; during which time, or at least before any stranger be suffered to lodge therein, That the said house be WELL FUMED, WASHED AND WHITED ALL OVER WITHIN WITH LIME; And that no Clothes, or Household stuff be removed out of the said house into any other house, for at least THREE MONTHS after, unless the persons so Infected have occasion to change their habitation.

13. THAT NONE DYING OF THE PLAGUE BE BURIED IN CHURCHES, OR CHURCH-YARDS (unless they be large, and then to have a place assigned for that use (where other bodies are not usually buried) Boarded or Paled in Ten foot high) but in some other convenient places, and that a good quantity of UNSLAKED LIME be put into the Graves with such bodies, and that such Graves be not after opened within the space of ONE YEAR or more, less they infect others.

14. That in case any CITY, BURROUGH, TOWN OR VILLAGE be so visited and Infected, that it is not able to maintain its own POOR, That then a RATE be forthwith made by the adjoining JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, and confirmed at the very next Quarter Sessions, for that use, upon the neighbouring Parishes, according to the Statute 1 Jacobi (King James), so that such visited Poor may have sufficient RELIEF; want and nastiness being great occasions of the Infection.

15. That you your selves use your utmost endeavours, not only to see these Directions punctually observed, and be in a readiness to render an ACCOUNT as often as you shall be required, but that you strictly enjoin all HIGH CONSTABLES, PETTY CONSTABLES, HEADS OF BOROUGHS and other Officers, to execute their respective Duties according to their places; and if any shall fail herein, to use the utmost severity against them according to Law.

What relates to PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS, and such other persons as are necessary for the preservation and help of such who shall be Infected, the same is left to your particular care and direction.

Lastly, That you take special care, that not only the MONTHLY FASTS, but that the PUBLIC PRAYERS on Wednesdays and Fridays also, be strictly and constantly observed according to HIS MAJESTIES PROCLAMATION; And that such Collections as shall be then made, be strictly applied to the relief and necessities of the Poor in Infected places, by which means God may be inclined to remove his severe hand both from amongst you and us.

GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS

Affixed – attached

Alehouses – places where ale (beer) was sold

Bayliffs – Bailiffs, Officials who could enforce Written Orders issued by a Court and carry out arrests

Blains – sores, blisters

Boarded or Paled – fenced

Burrough – any place larger than a Village

Carbuncles – harmful tumours, caused by inflammation of the skin

Chysurgeons – Surgeons

Contagion – epidemic

Enjoyn – direct, order

Expiration – end of the Time Limit

Forthwith – immediately

Habitation – place where people live

Headburroughs – Officers with the same role as Petty Constables

Herein – in this

High Constable – Officer with duties and powers to keep the Peace

Fumed – treated with fumes

Justice of the Peace – Magistrate with the power to deal with lesser crimes, perform Marriages and administer Oaths

Large – wealthy, important

Pest-House – a Plague Hospital, (there were five in London holding about 600 people)

Petty Constable – officer whose task was to keep the peace

Physitians – Physicians, Doctors

Proclamation – public announcement

Quarter Sessions – a local Court of Limited Powers that sat every three months

Relief – Public Assistance, aid

Render – give

Searchers – Officials appointed to view dead bodies and report on the Cause of Death

Unwholesome – unhealthy

Viz.- that is

Warders – Guards or Watchers of the locked up houses

VICTIMS

Death Toll

Although historical records for England were more extensive than those of any other European country, it is still extremely difficult to establish the death toll with any degree of certainty. Difficulties involve uncertainty about the size of the total population, as described above, but also issues regarding the proportion of the population that died from the Plague. Contemporary accounts are often grossly inflated, stating numbers as high as 90 percent.

Modern historians give estimates of death rates ranging from around 25% to more than 60 % of the total population.

The pioneering work in the field was made by JOSIAH WILLIAM RUSSELL in his 1948 British Medieval Population. Russell looked at Inquisitions Post-Mortem (IPMs), taken by the Crown to assess the wealth of the greatest landowners after their death, to assess the mortality caused by the BLACK DEATH, and from this arrived at an estimate of 23.6% of the entire population. He also looked at Episcopal Registers for the death toll among the Clergy, where the result was 30% to 40%.

Russell believed the Clergy was at particular risk of contagion, but eventually concluded a low mortality level of 20%.

Several of Russell's assumptions have been challenged, and the tendency since has been to adjust the assessment upwards. PHILLIP ZIEGLER in 1969, estimated the death rate to be at around one-third of the population. JEREMY GOLDBERG, in 1996, believed a number closer to 45% would be more realistic.

A 2004 study by OLE JORGEN BENEDICTOW suggests the exceptionally high mortality level of 62.5%.

Assuming a population of 6,000,000, this estimate would correspond to 3,750,000 deaths. Such a high percentage would place England above the average that Benedictow estimates for Western Europe as a whole, of 60 percent. A death rate at such a high level has not been universally accepted in the historical community.

In 2016, PROFESSOR CARENZA LEWIS (Archeologist, University of Lincoln, England) reported the results of a new method of assessing the death toll. She argued that pottery before and after the BLACK DEATH is datable because there was a change at that time from the high medieval to the late medieval style, and that counts of pottery of each type therefore provide a useful proxy for long term changes in population.

She and her colleagues analyzed pottery shards from test pits in more than 50 continuously occupied rural settlements in Eastern England and found a decline in the number of pottery-producing pits of 45 percent. Norfolk had the greatest drop of 65 percent, while there was zero drop in 10 percent of settlements, mostly commercial centres.

The study backs up contemporary accounts of the Pandemic's impact on mid-14th Century England. At St. Mary's Church in the Village of Ashwell, North Hertfordshire, an anonymous hand had engraved the phrase:

"wretched, terrible, destructive year, the remnants of the people alone remain,"

to describe what unfolded in 1349. Until the last 50 years or so, Historians believed that the devastation was as awful as described and accepted that the PLAGUE probably did kill 25% to 50% of Europe's inhabitants and instigated widespread SOCIAL UPHEAVAL.

BLACK DEATH: BUBONIC PLAGUE - 1348 AD

ARCHBISHOP ZOUCHE OF YORK issued a warning throughout the diocese in July 1348 (when the Epidemic was raging further South) of 'great mortalities, pestilences and infections of the air'.

THE GREAT MORTALITY, as it was then known, entered YORKSHIRE around February 1349 and quickly spread through the Diocese. The Clergy were on the front line of the disease, bringing comfort to the dying, hearing final confessions and organizing burials. This, almost by necessity, put them at a greater risk of infection.

Estimates suggest that the death rate of clergy in some parts of the archdiocese could have been as high as 48 percent. This is reflected in the Ordination Register, which shows a massive rise in ordained Clergy over the period, some being recruited before the arrival of plague in a clerical recruitment drive, but many once the plague had arrived, replacing those who had been killed.

In 1346, 111 priests and 337 acolytes were recruited. In 1349, 299 priests and 683 acolytes are named, with 166 priests being ordained in one session alone in February 1350.

SOCIAL DISTRIBUTION

JOSIAH WILLIAM RUSSELL trusted the Inquisitions Post Mortem (IPMs) to give a true picture of the national average, because he assumed death rates to be relatively equal across the social spectrum. This assumption has later been proven wrong, and studies of Peasant Plague Mortality from Manor Rolls have returned much higher rates. This could be a consequence of the elite's ability to avoid infection by escaping plague-infected areas. It could also result from lower post-infection mortality among those more affluent, due to better access to care and nursing. If so, this would also mean that the mortality rates for the Clergy, who were normally better off than the general population, were no higher than the average.

> **Edward III in a letter to King Alfonso of Castile:**
>
> > **… Destructive Death (who seizes young and old alike, sparing no one and reducing rich and poor to the same level) has lamentably snatched from both of us our dearest daughter, Joan (whom we loved best of all, as her virtues demanded).**

The Manorial Records offer a good opportunity to study the geographical distribution of the Plague. Its effect seems to have been about the same all over England, though a place like EAST ANGLIA, which had frequent contact with the EUROPEAN CONTINENT, was severely affected. On a local level, however, there were great variations.

A study of the BISHOP of WORCESTER'S Estates reveals that, while his Manors of HARTLEBURY and HAMBURY had a mortality of only 19%, the Manor of ASTON lost as much as 80% of its population. The MANOR ROLLS are less useful for studying the demographic distribution of the mortality, since the Rolls only record the Heads of Households, normally an adult male. Here the IPMs show us that the most vulnerable to the disease were INFANTS and the ELDERLY.

There seem to have been very few victims of the Black Death at higher levels of Society. The only member of the ROYAL FAMILY who can be said with any certainty to have died from the Black Death was in France at the time of her infection. EDWARD III's daughter JOAN was residing in Bordeaux on her way to marry PEDRO of CASTILE in the Summer of 1348. When the PLAGUE broke out in her Household, she was moved to a small Village nearby, but she could not avoid infection, and died there on 2 September 1348.

An IRON AGE SHIELD found in Pocklington, East Riding of Yorkshire, is one of the most important ancient finds this Millennium.

The pit has been dated to the devastating 1348-1349 outbreak of PLAGUE, which wiped out as much as 50% of the ENGLISH POPULATION in just 18-months and spawned the 'BLACK DEATH' nickname after the dark abscesses which formed on sufferers' skin.

The THORNTON ABBEY skeletons have astonished historians, as the few mass burial sites previously excavated in Britain were all found in London. It had always been thought that in rural areas where the population was sparse, Black Death victims would have been interred in their local Churchyard with proper ceremony.

The fatality rate at THORNTON ABBEY in North Lincolnshire, suggests that the disease was so virulent on the HUMBER ESTUARY that Priests and Gravediggers were overwhelmed by the demand for quick burials.

- **Archaeologists believe that the 48 victims found wrapped in shrouds in a sandy pit died within days of each other and had fled to the Abbey to seek care and medical attention from the monks who lived there.**
- **DNA tests on the remains of the men, women and children revealed the presence of the BUBONIC PLAGUE pathogen.**
- **University of Sheffield archaeologist DR HUGH WILLMOTT said that no comparable burial site had ever been discovered in the Countryside**.

Black Death: Economic, Social and Political Consequences

Among the most immediate consequences of the BLACK DEATH in England was a shortage of FARM LABOUR, and a corresponding RISE IN WAGES.

The medieval worldview was unable to interpret these changes in terms of socio-economic development, and it became common to blame degrading Morals instead. The Landowning Classes saw the rise in wage levels as a sign of social upheaval and insubordination and reacted with coercion. In 1349, KING EDWARD III passed the ORDINANCE OF LABOURERS, fixing wages at pre-Plague levels. The ordinance was reinforced by Parliament's passing of the STATUTE OF LABOURERS in 1351.

The LABOUR LAWS were enforced with ruthless determination over the following decades.

PEASANTS' REVOLT: Rebel leader WATT TYLER is killed on the left, while the young KING RICHARD II pacifies the crowd on the right.

THESE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES proved largely inefficient at regulating the Market, but the Government's repressive measures to enforce them caused PUBLIC RESENTMENT.

These conditions were contributing factors to the PEASANTS' REVOLT in 1381.

The Revolt started in KENT and ESSEX in late May 1381, and once the rebels reached LONDON, they burnt down JOHN OF GAUNT'S SAVOY PALACE, and killed both the CHANCELLOR and the TREASURER. They then demanded the complete abolition of SERFDOM and were not pacified until the young KING RICHARD II personally intervened. The REVOLT was eventually suppressed, but the social changes it promoted were already irreversible.

By around 1400 AD SERFDOM was virtually extinct in England, replaced by the form of tenure called COPYHOLD.

It is conspicuous how well the ENGLISH GOVERNMENT handled the crisis of the mid-14th Century, without descending into chaos and total collapse in the manner of the Valois Government of France. To a large extent this was the accomplishment of Administrators such as TREASURER WILLIAM De SHARESHULL and CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM EDINGTON, whose highly competent leadership guided the Governance of the Nation through the Crisis.

Postscript: The PLAGUE'S greatest effect on the GOVERNMENT was probably in the field of WAR, where no major English Campaigns were launched in France until 1355.

Money, Wages and Prices circa 1307 AD

Rather than giving modern equivalents of incomes and prices in the early 14th Century, which are almost impossible to calculate accurately and which, with inflation, date quickly, the following is intended to give an idea of the value of money in Edward II's reign:

In the British pre-decimal (duodecimal) currency system, the term £sd (or Lsd) for pounds, shillings and pence, referred to the Roman words LIBRA, SOLIDUS, and DENARIUS.

The only coin in general circulation in England was the SILVER PENNY, which could be broken in two to make a half-penny, or into four to make a farthing. The main unit of currency was the Pound, consisting of 240 Pence or twenty Shillings, though it remained a purely theoretical notion for most people.

Large sums of money could only be transported in barrels containing thousands of Pennies. The mark was another unit of currency often used in accounting: It equalled two-thirds of a pound, or 160 pence or 13-Shillings and 4-Pence.

The average Daily Wage of an UNSKILLED LABOURER was one or 1 - 2 Pence. Skilled CRAFTSMEN, of course, earned more: KING EDWARD II'S Carpenters were paid 3-Pence a day, and his Master Carpenters 6-Pence.

In KING EDWARD'S household:

Pages earned 2-Pence per day,

Archers & Grooms earned 3-Pence per day

The cost of a trained WARHORSE was £50 to £80, or 12,000 Pence to 19,200 Pence.

A loaf of the cheapest BREAD cost 1-Farthing (1/4 of a Penny).

• A CHICKEN, 2-dozen EGGS and 1-gallon of ALE each cost 1-Penny.

The minimum ANNUAL INCOME to qualify for KNIGHTHOOD was £40.

A COW cost 10 or 12-Shillings,

A SHEEP cost 20-Pence or less.

A WHITE PIG cost 10-Shillings.

Economic & Wage Consequences of Population Reduction

Another notable consequence of the BLACK DEATH was the raising of the REAL WAGE of England (due to the SHORTAGE OF LABOUR as a result of the reduction in population), a trait shared across Western Europe, which in general led to a real wage in 1450 that was unmatched in most Countries until the 19th. or 20th. Century.

The HIGHER WAGES FOR WORKERS combined with SINKING PRICES on grain products led to a problematic economic situation for the Gentry. As a result, they started to show an increased interest for offices like Justice of the Peace and Member of Parliament. The Gentry took advantage of their new positions and a more SYSTEMATIC CORRUPTION than before spread. A result of this was that the Gentry as a group became highly disliked by Commoners.

RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL CONSEQUENCES

The omnipresence of DEATH also inspired greater piety in the Upper Classes, which can be seen in the fact that three CAMBRIDGE COLLEGES were founded during or shortly after the BLACK DEATH. England did not experience the same trend of roving bands of flagellants, common on the European Continent. Neither were there any POGROMS against the Jews, since the Jews had already been expelled by King EDWARD I in 1290.

In the long run, however, the increase in Public Participation may have served to challenge the absolute authority of the Church Hierarchy, and thus possibly helped pave the way for the PROTESTANT REFORMATION.

The high rate of MORTALITY among the Clergy naturally led to a shortage of Priests in many parts of the Country. The Clergy were seen to have an elevated status among ordinary people, and this was partly due to their closeness with God, being HIS envoys on earth. However, as the Church itself had given the cause of the Black Death to be the impropriety of the behaviour of MEN, the higher death rate among the Clergy led the people to lose faith in the Church as an institution – it had proven as ineffectual against the horror of Y. PESTIS as every other Medieval Institution.

The corruption within the CATHOLIC PRIESTHOOD also angered the English people. Many Priests abandoned the terrified people. Others sought benefits from the rich families who needed burials. The dissatisfaction led to Anti-Clericalism and the rise of JOHN WYCLIFFE, an English priest. His ideas paved a path for the CHRISTIAN REFORMATION in England.

Some people didn't lose their CHRISTIAN FAITH, if anything it was renewed; they began to long for a more personal relationship with GOD – around the time after the BLACK DEATH many Chantries (Private Chapels) began to spread in use from not just the nobility, but to among the well-to-do. This change in the power of the PAPACY in England is demonstrated by the STATUTES OF PRAEMUNIRE.

The Statutes of Praemunire were laws passed in the 14th Century to limit the power of the Papacy. The 1353 STATUTE OF PRAEMUNIRE made it unlawful for legal cases that could be heard in English courts to be decided elsewhere.

The BLACK DEATH also affected ARTS AND CULTURE significantly. It was inevitable that a catastrophe of such proportions would affect some of the greater building projects, as the amount of available LABOUR fell sharply. The building of the Cathedrals of Ely and Exeter was temporarily halted in the years immediately following the first outbreak of the Plague.

The shortage of labour also helped advance the transition from the Decorated style of building to the less elaborate Perpendicular style. The Black Death may also have promoted the use of VERNACULAR ENGLISH, as the number of TEACHERS proficient in FRENCH dwindled, contributing to the late 14th. Century flowering of ENGLISH LITERATURE, represented by writers such as GEOFFREY CHAUCER and JOHN GOWER.

The First Sweat in 1485

- The SWEATING SICKNESS first unfurled its banners in England in the City of London, on September 19, 1485; and then followed certain astrological signs, representing the positions or conjunctions of heavenly bodies on that date. The London Chronicles of the time assign dates for the beginning of the epidemic which differ somewhat from Dr Forrestier's. One of them, a Manuscript of the COTTON COLLECTION, by an anonymous Citizen of London, records the entry of King Henry VII into the capital on the 27th of August, 1485 and proceeds:

"And the 27th. day of September began the Sweating Sykness in London, whereof died THOMAS HYLL that year Mayor, for whom was chosen SIR WILLIAM STOKKER, knyght, which died within 5 days after of the same disease. Then for him was chosen John Warde.... And this year died of that sickness, besides 2 Mayors above rehearsed, John Stokker, Thomas Breten, Richard Pawson, Thomas Norland, Aldermen, and many Worshipful Commoners."

- In the better known but not always equally full CHRONICLE OF FABYAN, who was then a Citizen, and afterwards SHERIFF and ALDERMAN, the date of King Henry's reception by the Mayor and Citizens at Hornsey Park (north London near Charing Cross) is given as the 28th of August, the reference to the Sweat being as follows:

"And upon the 11th. day of Octobre next following, than beynge the swetynge sykeness of newe begun, dyed the same THOMAS HYLLE, Mayor, and for him was chosen Sir William Stokker, knyght and draper, which dyed also of the sayd sickness shortly after."

- The only other particular date extant for the Sweat of 1485 comes from the country: Lambert Fossedike, Abbot of Croyland, died there of the sweating sickness, after an illness of eighteen hours, on the 14th of October, 1485.

Apart from the hitherto unknown manuscript of Dr. THOMAS FORESTIER, these are the only contemporary references.

THOMAS FORESTIER was a learned Physician with a peripatetic career, who practised in Rouen and across the Channel in London before ending his career as a highly paid Town Physician in RENNES, Brittany.

He is best known for authoring a treatise on the first outbreak of the English SWEATING SICKNESS in the mid-1480s.

Dedicated to KING HENRY VII of England (1485–1509), it survives only in manuscript form but is related to his two printed works. All of these written works address the topic of PESTILENTIAL ILLNESS.

- **JOHN STOW (1525-1605) an English Historian, who must have had access to some Journal of the time, says that King Henry VII entered London on the 27th August and that "the SWEATING began the 21st September, and continued till the end of October, of the which a wonderful number died, including the two Mayors and four other Aldermen".**

- **HALL'S CHRONICLE, which has been the principal source used by Hacker and others, reproduces the account of the SWEAT by Polydore Virgil almost word for word; and Polydore's account was certainly not begun until after 1504 and was not published until 1531.**

- **BERNARD ANDRÉ, historiographer and Poet Laureate of Henry VII, was present at the entry into London on August 27; but he gives no particulars of the SWEAT of that autumn in his 'LIFE OF HENRY VII,' although it is probable that his 'Annals of Henry VII.' would have furnished some information had they not been lost for the year 1485, as it is to his extant Annals for the year 1508 that we owe almost all that is known of the Second Epidemic of the SWEAT in that year.**

- **The State Papers of the time do not contain a single reference to the Epidemic, although it was so active in the City of London as to carry off two Mayors and four Aldermen within a few days, and was besides, as Polydore Virgil says, "a new kind of disease, from which no former age had suffered, as all agree."**

NOTE: POLYDORE VERGIL or Virgil, widely known as Polydore Vergil of Urbino, was an Italian humanist scholar, historian, Priest and Diplomat, who spent most of his life in England.

■ **LONDON was full of people, including some who had stood by HENRY TUDOR in France, others who had joined his standard in Wales, and still others who came to do homage to the new Tudor Dynasty; and there is evidence remaining of hundreds of suitors, great and small, attending the ROYAL COURT to receive the reward of their services in Patents and Grants, as well as evidence in the wardrobe accounts of the bustle of preparing for the CORONATION on the 30th of October.**

However, in all the extant STATE RECORDS of those busy weeks, there is not a scrap of writing to show that such a thing as a PESTILENCE was raging within the narrow bounds of the City and within the walls of the Royal Palace in the Tower of London.

It remains, therefore, to make what we can out of the MEDICAL ESSAY which Dr. THOMAS FORESTIER wrote for the occasion.

■ **In his later reference of 1490, Dr. THOMAS FORESTIER says that "more than 15,000 were cut off in sudden death, as if by the visitation of God, many dying while walking in the streets, without warning and without being confessed". That number of the dead need not be taken as at all exact: nor does it appear whether it is meant for London or for the whole Country. Yet the dramatic suddenness of the attack is illustrated by particular cases in his original treatise of 1485, although deaths so sudden are unheard of in any infection:**

"We saw two Preysts standing togeder and speaking togeder, and we saw both of them dye sodenly. Also, in "die proximi" we see the wyfe of a taylour taken and sodenly dyed. Another yonge man walking by the street fell down sodenly. Also, another gentylman ryding out of the cyte dyed. Also, many others the which were long to rehearse we have known that have dyed sodenly."

Gentlemen and Gentlewomen, Priests, Righteous men, Merchants, rich and poor, were among the victims of this sudden death. Of the symptoms Dr. Forestier says: "And this sickness cometh with a grete swetyng and stynkyng, with redness of the face and of all the body, and a contynual thurst, with a grete hete and hedache because of the fumes and venoms."

He mentions also "pricking the brains," and "some appear red and yellow, as we have seen many, and in two grete ladies that we saw, the which were sick in all their bodies and they felt grete pricking in their bodies. And some had black spots, as it appeared in our Brother Alban, a noble leech on whose soul God have mercy!"

NOTE: The reference to a "leech" probably is a derogatory synonym for "Doctor".

Both in his pathology and in his copious APPENDIX OF FORMULAE Dr. Forestier directs attention to the HEART, as the organ that was suddenly overpowered by the pestilential venoms. Many died, he would have us believe, because they listened to the "FALSE LEECHES", who professed to know the disease and to have treated it before. A considerable part of his space is occupied with the denunciation of these irregular Practitioners, their greed and their ignorance, a theme which is a common one in the prefaces of Elizabethan medical works also.

It appears that the "false leeches" wrote and put letters upon gates and Church doors, or upon poles, promising to help the people in their sickness. They were also injudicious in the choice of their remedies, some ordaining powders and medicines that are hot until the thirtieth degree and over, others ale or wine, or hot spices, "And many other medicines they have, the which, the best of them, is worth nothing."

These "false leeches" evidently knew not the causes (their complexions, their ages, the regions, the times of the year, the climate) the astrological lore which gave Chaucer's Physician, a Century earlier, his academical standing or his superiority to the vulgar quacks of his day. Those who fell into the hands of quacks, Dr. FORESTIER implies, had an indifferent chance.

Many died for want of help and good guidance; whereas many a one was healed that had received a medicine in due order, "And if he had purged himself before."

- The clearly written and fully detailed FORMULAE at the end of his Essay are so far evidence that Dr. THOMAS FORESTIER did not traffic in secret remedies. The first part of the Essay is occupied with the DOCTRINE OF CAUSES—the nigh causes and the far. The far causes were astrological; but the nigh causes, although they are altogether inadequate to account for SWEATING SICKNESS as a special type, and are indeed little

else than the stock list of "nuisances" quoted in earlier treatises upon the Plague, are suggestive enough of the condition of London Streets and Houses at the time.

(The account of the treatment given by POLYDORE VIRGIL, and from him copied into HALL'S CHRONICLE, is probably the experience of later Epidemics of the SWEAT, although it comes into the history under the year 1485.)

The evil effects of throwing off the bed-clothes, and of drinking great draughts of cold water, and, on the other hand, the benefits of lying still with the hands and feet well covered, are among the topics discussed in letters during the epidemic of 1517, one of those which came within the historian's own experience in England. It is clear from Dr. Forestier's Essay of 1485 that there were great differences in the regimen of patients in the Sweat during its very first season, some adopting the hot and cordial treatment, others, perhaps, the cooling, just as in the SMALLPOX long after.

- **BERNARD ANDRÉ implies that there was a correct and an incorrect regimen also in the second epidemic of 1508, and there is evidence of conflicting advice in the letters on the sweats of 1517 and 1528. If there were any better regimen in the later epidemics than in the earlier, as Polydore Virgil says there was, it was merely the wisdom of avoiding extremes. Hence the misleading character of his remark that, after an immense loss of life, "a remedy was found, ready to hand for everyone."**

  NOTE: BERNARD ANDRÉ (1450–1522), was also known as ANDREAS, was a FRENCH AUGUSTINIAN FRIAR and Poet Laureate, who was a noted CHRONICLER of the reign of HENRY VII of England.

- **FRANCIS BACON in his 'REIGN OF HENRY VII.' took from Polydore almost word for word all that he says of the "remedy" of the sweat; and the unreal word-spinning thus begun was carried to its full development by Bishop Sprat, the historian of the Royal Society (1667), who mistakes the "remedy" for some *arcanum* or potent drug, gives Lord Verulam the credit of preserving the prescription for the use of posterity, and adduces it as an encouragement to the Royal Society to seek among the secrets of nature for an equally efficacious "antidote" to the plague.**

The message of Historians is that the SWEAT of 1485 spread over the whole Kingdom of England.

We hear of it definitely at OXFORD where it "lasted but a month or 6-weeks" and is said to have cut off many of the Scholars before they could disperse. It is heard of also with equal definiteness at CROYLAND ABBEY (i.e. CROWLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE). There is also mention of it in a contemporary Calendar of the MAYOR of BRISTOL but without any special reference to that City.

Beyond these Notices, there appears to be nothing to show that the SWEAT went all through ENGLAND in the late autumn or early winter of 1485. Yet we may take the following passage by DR. FORESTIER, in the dedication of his literary work to the King, as expressing the state of matters, with perhaps some exaggeration:

"When that Thy Highness and Thy Great Power is vexed and troubled with divers sickness, and Thy Lordships and almost the middle part of Thy Realm with the venomous fever of PESTILENCE, and, by the reason of that, Young and Old and of all manner of Ages, with divers wailings and sadness they are stricken: Therefore, Excellent and Noble Prince, we are moved with every Love and Duty, and not for Lucre neither Covetousness, to Ordain a short Governing against this Fore-Said Fever."

The Second Sweat in 1508.

After the first outburst of the SWEAT in 1485 had subsided, probably before Winter was well begun, nothing more is heard of it for 23-years.

It reappeared in 1508, a third time in 1517, a fourth time in 1528, and for the last time in 1551. With each successive outbreak, our information becomes less meagre, while the Epidemic of 1551 actually called forth an English printed book by Dr. JOHN CAIUS, the Epidemic of 1528 having called forth a whole crop of foreign writings on its spreading to the Continent (for the first and only time) in the year following (1529).

DR. JOHN CAIUS was a Physician in London in 1547, and was admitted as a Fellow of the College of Physicians, of which he was for many years President.

In 1551 he was attending in SHREWSBURY when a notable outbreak of SWEATING SICKNESS occurred in the Town; the following year, after his return to London, he published *A Boke or Counseill Against the Disease Commonly Called the Sweate, or Sweatyng Sicknesse* (1552), which became the main source of knowledge of this disease, now understood to be INFLUENZA.

As the nature, causes, and favouring circumstances of the SWEAT cannot profitably be dealt with except on a review of its whole history, it will be necessary to take up at once and together the four subsequent Epidemics of it in this Country, leaving the intercurrent and probably much more disastrous epidemics of BUBO-PLAGUE, during the same period, as well as the great invasion of SYPHILIS in 1494 - 1496, to be chronicled apart.

Our knowledge of the SECOND OUTBREAK of the SWEAT, in 1508, comes almost exclusively from BERNARD ANDRÉ, whose ANNALS of HENRY VII are fortunately preserved for that year (as they are also for 1504 - 1505).

Under the date of July 1508, he says that some members of the household of the LORD TREASURER were seized with the Sweat, and died of it, "and everywhere in this City there died not a few." In August public prayers were made at St Paul's Cathedral on account of the PLAGUE of SWEAT. In the same month the King's movements from place to place in the Country around London are described as determined by the prevalence of the SWEAT.

From Hatfield, whither he had gone to visit his Mother on the 9th August, he went to Wanstead, where certain of his household "sweated"; on that account the King moved to Barking, and thence to other places about the 14th. He avoided Greenwich and Elmham, in both places the chief personages of the Royal Palaces "had sweated," so much did the sickness then rage in all places.

Some of the King's personal attendants appear to have caught the infection; nor did it avail, says André, to run away or to follow the chase, *quoniam mors omnia vincit* (*since Death conquers all*). Other visits were paid down to the 17th. August, and a strict edict was issued that no one from LONDON was to come near the Court, nor anyone to repair to the City, under penalties specified. The only one near the King's person who died of it was LORD GRAYSTOCK, a young Cumberland noble.

The Lord Privy Seal and the Lord Chamberlain were both attacked but recovered. There appears to have been a good deal of the sickness in various places, but many recovered, says André, with good tending. The King occupied himself with hunting the stag in the forests at Stratford, Eltham and other places around London.

From the Provinces there is one item of information relating to CHESTER, County Town of CHESHIRE: in the summer of 1507, it is said, the SWEATING SICKNESS destroyed 91-people in three days, of whom 4 were women. At OXFORD in 1508, the year before HENRY VII'S death, there was a sore Pestilence which caused the dispersion of many students; but it is not called the SWEAT.

The Third Sweat in 1517.

Except for a single reference to THE SWEAT in 1511, nothing is heard of it between the Autumn of 1508 and the Summer of 1517. The reference in 1511 occurs in a letter of DESIDERIUS ERASMUS, a famous Dutch Christian Philosopher from Queens' College, Cambridge, dated 25th. August, in which he says that his health is still indifferent. This may possibly refer to the lingering effects of an attack in 1508, or to the INFLUENZA of 1510; and as all the other references in 1511 are to PLAGUE, and to alarms of Plague, it may be doubted if the SWEATING SICKNESS had really been prevalent in England in that year, or at any time between 1508 and 1517.

We begin to hear of it definitely in the summer of 1517. We have now reached a period from which numerous letters, despatches and other State Papers have come down. Among the most useful of these, for our purpose, are despatches of the VENETIAN AMBASSADOR and the APOSTOLIC NUNCIO from London, the letters of RICHARD PACE (Secretary to Wolsey) to CARDINAL WOLSEY when Henry VIII was in the Country and the Cardinal not with him, the letters of ERASMUS, SIR THOMAS MORE and others.

The first that we hear of sickness in London in 1517 is from a letter of the 24th June, written by a CARDINAL OF ARAGON to Cardinal Wolsey, from Calais. The Cardinal, who was travelling like a noble, with a train of forty horses, had intended to visit London, but was waiting on the other side owing to a rumour that the sickness was prevalent in London. It is probable that this rumour had referred to the standing infection of English Towns in Summer and Autumn, the BUBO-PLAGUE; for it is not until five weeks later that we hear of the SWEATING SICKNESS under its proper name.

On August 1, 1517 the APOSTOLIC NUNCIO writes from London to the MARQUIS of MANTUA that a DISEASE is broken out here causing SUDDEN DEATH within six hours; it is called the SWEATING SICKNESS; an immense number die of it. On August 6th. he occupies the greater part of a letter of 3-pages with an account of it. To some it proved fatal in 12-hours, to others in 6-hours, and to others in 4-hours; it is an easy death. Most patients are seized when lying down, but some when on foot, and even a very few when riding out. The attack lasts about 24-hours, more or less.

It is fatal to take, during the fit, any cold drink, or to allow a draught of air to reach the drenching skin; the covering should be rather more ample than usual, but there was danger in heaping too many bedclothes on the patient. A moderate fire should be kept up in the sick chamber; the arms should be crossed on the patient's breast, and great care should be taken that no cold air reached the armpits.

The disease was on the increase and was already spreading over England; it was reported that more than 400-students had died of it at Oxford, which was a small place but for the University there. Burials were occurring on every side; there had been many deaths in the King's Household and in that of Cardinal Wolsey, who was in the Country "sweating." Such is the universal dread of the disease that there are very few who do not fear for their lives, while some are so terrified that they suffer more from fear than others do from the sweat itself.

On August 6, 1517 the Venetian Ambassador, Duke SEBASTIAN GIUSTINIAN, who was on friendly terms with the Nuncio and often indebted to him for information, writes to the Duke giving much the same account of "the new malady." He remarks upon the sudden onset, the rapidity of the issue when it was to be fatal, and the cessation of the SWEAT within twenty-four hours.

His Secretary had taken the SWEAT, as well as many of his domestics.

Few strangers are dead, but an immense number of Englishmen. When going to visit WOLSEY, he found that he also had the SWEAT; many of the Cardinal's household had also died of it, including some of his chief attendants; the BISHOP OF WINCHESTER also had taken it.

On the 12th. of August, 1517 the Venetian Ambassador writes that he himself and his son have had the SWEAT; CARDINAL WOLSEY has had it three times in a few days, many of his people are already dead of it, especially his Gentlemen Servants.

In LONDON "ALL IS SILENT."

CARDINAL WOLSEY'S own attack and relapses are confirmed by his letter to King Henry VII. About the end of August 1517, he went on a Pilgrimage to the Village of WALSINGHAM in Norfolk and remained there most of September, but even after his return he was "vexed with fever."

CARDINAL WOLSEY

The relapses of the SWEATS, which are mentioned by Dr. FORESTIER in 1485, by BERNARD ANDRÉ in 1508, and now again in 1517, may have been the origin of the saying in the form of a proverb, which occurs in an essay of the time by SIR THOMAS MORE, that "the relapse is worse than the original disease".

The death of a well-known personage, ANDREA AMMONIO, the Italian Secretary of King Henry VII, is the subject of several letters, including one of the 19th. of August, 1517 from Sir Thomas More to Erasmus; ANDREA died at nine on the morning of the 17th. August after an illness of only 20-hours. He had been congratulating himself on being safe by reason of his temperate life.

Sir THOMAS MORE confirms the statement as to deaths in the University of Oxford, and he adds also at Cambridge.

In London the SWEAT attacks whole families. "I assure you there is less danger in the ranks of War than in this City." His own family in Bucklersbury, London are safe so far, and he has composed his mind for any eventuality. He hears that the SWEAT is now at CALAIS, France.

On August 27, 1517, the Venetian Envoy writes again that the disease is now making great progress; the King keeps out of the way at WINDSOR, with only 3-favourite gentlemen servants and DIONYSIUS MEMO, who is described as his Physician, but in other letters as "the Reverend," and as a Musician from Venice.

On September 21, 1517, the Envoy has gone to the Country to avoid "the PLAGUE *and* the SWEATING SICKNESS." A few days later (September 26) he writes: "the PLAGUE" is making some progress, and that the prolonged absence of the KING, the CARDINAL and other LORDS from London owing to the SWEAT, had encouraged the Citizens to a turbulent mood against the FOREIGN TRADERS and FOREIGN RESIDENTS; the state of matters was so threatening that 3,000 Citizens were "under arms" to preserve the Peace.

The references after September 1517, are mostly to the "COMMON INFECTION" or "PLAGUE", which was an almost Annual Autumnal event in London. There was probably some confusion, at the time, between that infection and the SWEAT, not, of course as regards symptoms, but in common Report; thus it is not clear whether the fresh alarm in the KING'S COURT AT or near WINDSOR on October 15, 1517 owing to the deaths of young LORD GREY De WILTON and a German attendant of the King, refers to the "SWEAT" or to the "PLAGUE".

As late as the November 2, 1517, a letter from the University of Oxford to Cardinal Wolsey excuses delay in answering his two letters, because of the SWEATING SICKNESS.

The prevalence of "SUDOR TABIFICUS" (Melting Sweat) at Oxford in 1517 is known from other sources as well. It is said to have caused "the dispersion and sweeping away of most, if not all, of the students" and the APOSTOLIC NUNCIO, writing from London on August 6, 1517 mentions the current but improbable statement that more than 400-students had died in less than a week.

Besides these from Oxford, there are very few notices of the 1517 SWEAT in the Country remote from LONDON. A record at CHESTER, in Cheshire, England mentions an outbreak of "PLAGUE," which is taken to mean SWEATING SICKNESS; it is also said to have been "probably more serious than in 1507"; many died, others fled; and the grass grew a foot high at CHESTER HIGH CROSS in front of St. Peter's Church.

However, these are the marks of true PLAGUE, which we know to have broken out in London, and in Country Districts as well, in the Autumn and Winter of 1517, or almost as soon as the short and sharp outburst of the SWEAT was past.

Among the references to prevailing diseases on the Continent in 1517, besides Sir Thomas More's rumour of the SWEAT in CALAIS, there is none which would lead us to suppose that the distinctive English malady had invaded Europe in that year. Yet there is a significant statement by the Dutch Philosopher, ERASMUS of ROTTERDAM, hitherto overlooked, which almost certainly points to an "EPIDEMIC of INFLUENZA" on the other side of the North Sea the year after the SWEAT was prevalent in England.

It is known that there was a suddenly fatal form of THROAT DISEASE prevalent in the NETHERLANDS that Spring of 1518, which had been taken to be DIPHTHERIA; but the malady to which ERASMUS refers can hardly have been the same as that.

Writing from LOUVAIN, in Central Belgium to the "Barbieri" (Barber-Surgeons) on June 1, 1518, ERASMUS says that a new PLAGUE is raging in Germany, affecting people with a cough, and pain in the head and stomach, he himself having suffered from it. (The significance of that Epidemic, assuming it to have been INFLUENZA, will be dealt with later in the sequel.)

By means of the foregoing contemporary Notices of the SWEAT in 1517, we are able to judge the general accuracy of the summary of it in Edward Hall's Chronicle ("HISTORY OF ENGLAND, HENRY IV TO HENRY VIII" which has been hitherto almost the only source of information.) The SWEAT killed, he says, in 3-hours or 2-hours, which is something of an exaggeration of the shortest duration mentioned by the APOSTOLIC NUNCIO and the VENETIAN ENVOY in their letters of August 1 & 6, 1517.

Another General Statement may be suspected of even greater exaggeration: "For in one Town half the people died, and in some other Town the third part, the Sweat was so fervent and the infection so great." The Sweat lasted, he says, to the middle of December.

JOHN STOW, English Historian, in his Chronicle "The Annales of England" , more correctly states that the Plague came in the end of the year, after the Sweat. The Plague was much the more deadly infection of the two; but even Plague and Sweat together, and at their worst, would hardly have destroyed one-half or one-third of the inhabitants of a Town.

John Stow (1525 - 1605)

The Fourth Sweat in 1528.

While the despatches of the Nuncio (Papal Ambassador) and the Venetian Envoy in London give the best accounts of the SWEAT of 1517, it is in the despatches of the French Ambassador, CARDINAL JEAN Du BELLAY, that we find the most serviceable particulars of the Sweat in 1528. Du Bellay, Bishop of Bayonne, and a witty diplomat, was in London through the whole of it, and during that time sent letters to Paris, in three of which the Sweat is a principal topic. From many other State Letters of the time various particulars may be gathered, and in one letter by Brian Tuke, one of the King Henry VIII's Ministers, we find some theorizing about the disease.

The outbreak of the SWEAT befell at the time when KING HENRY VIII'S passion for Mistress ANNE BOLEYN, sister to one of the Ladies of the Court, was waxing strong; it had the effect of parting the lovers for several weeks, the distance between them having been bridged over by an interchange of tender notes, of which those of the King remain open to the prying eyes of posterity.

The SWEAT is heard of as early as June 5, 1528, when Sir BRIAN TUKE writes to CUTHBERT TUNSTALL, Bishop of London, that he had fled to Stepney "for fear of the infection," a servant being ill at his house. The sickness must have allowed little else to talk about for some 10-days longer.

Sir BRIAN TUKE was the Secretary to HENRY VIII and Cardinal Wolsey. He served as the first Governor of the King's Posts from 1517 to 1545.

On the 18th. June, 1528 CARDINAL JEAN Du BELLAY writes that the SWEAT had made its appearance "within these four days." On the 16th, KING HENRY VIII at Greenwich was alarmed by the intelligence that one of ANNE BOLEYN'S maids had been attacked by it. He left in great haste for WALTHAM and sent the young lady to her father's in Kent. "As yet," writes Du Bellay, "the love has not abated. I know not, if absence and the difficulties of Rome may effect anything."

The KING wrote to her at once: "There came to me in the night the most afflicting news possible.... I fear to suffer yet longer that absence which has already given me so much pain." He sends his second Physician (Dr Butts) to her. The alarm about her health seems to have been uncalled for just then, although both Anne Boleyn and her father caught the disease within a few days.

BY JUNE 18, 1528 according to the French Envoy, some 2,000 had caught the sickness in LONDON.

IT IS, HE SAYS, A MOST PERILOUS DISEASE: "one has a little pain in the head and heart; suddenly a sweat begins; and a Physician is useless, for whether you wrap yourself up much or little, in four hours, sometimes in two or three, you are despatched without languishing as in those troublesome fevers." The day before, he saw the people "as thick as flies rushing from the streets or shops into their houses to take the sweat whenever they felt ill.... In London, I assure you, the Priests have a better time than the Doctors, except that the latter do not help to bury". If this thing goes on, corn will soon be cheap. [The season was one of scarcity.]

It is 11-years since there was such a visitation, when there died 10,000 persons in 10 or 12 days; but it was not as bad as this has been."

Writing again, twelve days after, on June 30, 1528 he says that some 40,000 had been attacked in London, only 2,000 of whom had died; "but if a man only put his hand out of bed during the twenty-four hours, it becomes as stiff as a pane of glass"- that is to say, by keeping themselves carefully covered, as we learn also from Polydore Virgil's history and letters on the SWEAT of 1517, they greatly increased the chance of recovery.

In his third dispatch on July 21, 1528 he says the danger begins to diminish hereabout and to increase elsewhere; in KENT it is very great.

ANNE BOLEYN and her father have sweated but have got over it. The Notaries have had a fine time of it, nearly everyone having made his Will, as those who took the disease in its fatal form "became quite foolish the moment they fell ill." His estimate of 100,000 Wills is, of course, a humorous exaggeration.

The SWEAT had been at its height in LONDON, according to its wont, for only a few weeks, mostly in July. On August 21, 1528 one writes from London: "the PLAGUE at this day is well assuaged, and little or nothing heard thereof." From other parts of England there are few particulars of the SWEAT of 1528. We hear of it at WOBURN, Bedfordshire on June 26, in a Nunnery at WILTON, Wiltshire on July 18, and at BEVERLEY, Yorkshire on July 22, 1528.

It is reported as very serious in YORKSHIRE generally; at CAMBRIDGE on July 27, and at several places in KENT about the same date.

The "infection" at DOVER as late as September 27, may not have been the SWEAT, but the ordinary BUBO-PLAGUE. Yet it is probably to the SWEAT that the deaths of 4-Priests and 2-Lay-brothers at AXHOLME, Lincolnshire, are to be referred, as well as the heavy mortality in the Carthusian Monastery at CHARTERHOUSE, London.

As in the previous SWEAT of 1517, the letters of the time give us many glimpses of the invasion of great Households in and around London, including the King's Household.

When the FRENCH AMBASSADOR was walking with CARDINAL WOLSEY in his garden at York Place (Whitehall) on a day in June, 1517 word was brought to the Cardinal that 5 or 6 of his household had taken the SWEAT, and the diplomatic interview was brought to an abrupt end.

CARDINAL JEAN Du BELLAY writes again in July 1517 that only 4-men in CARDINAL WOLSEY'S Great House remained well. Among those in his household who died of it were a brother of LORD DERBY and a nephew of the DUKE OF NORFOLK. The Cardinal, who had suffered from the SWEAT and its relapses earlier in 1517, fled from it to HAMPTON COURT, in London on June 30, and shut himself up there with only a few attendants, having previously adjourned the Law Courts and stopped the Assizes.

Cardinal Jean Du Bellay

On July 21, 1517 CARDINAL JEAN Du BELLAY writes that it was almost impossible to get access to WOLSEY and suggests that he might have to speak with him at Hampton Court "through a trumpet". In the same letter, the FRENCH AMBASSADOR refers to the circumstances of his own attack when he was visiting the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY (William Warham), probably at Lambeth Palace:

"The day I SWEATED at my Lord of Canterbury's, there died 18-persons in 4-hours, and hardly anyone escaped but myself, who am not yet quite strong again."

The BISHOP of LONDON, Cuthbert Tunstall, writes to Wolsey from Fulham on July 10, 1517 that 13 of his servants were sick of the SWEAT at once on St Thomas's Day (December 21st); however, he had still caused the Public Processions and Prayers to be made, which the King had previously wished for on July 5.

The GOVERNOR of CALAIS writes on July 10, 1517: "The SWEAT has arrived and has attacked many."

Only 2 were dead, a Lancashire Gentleman and a fisherman; but in a second letter of the same night, 4 more are dead, of whom two "were in good health last evening when they went to their beds."

Various other letters about the same date make mention of personal experiences of the SWEAT, or of domestics attacked, at Country Houses in the Home Counties. The most minute accounts are those for the King's Household.

> **The HOME COUNTIES are the Counties of England that surround London. The Counties are not precisely defined but Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent and Surrey are usually included in definitions as they directly border London.**

On June 16, 1517, KING HENRY VIII left GREENWICH hurriedly for WALTHAM.

In a letter to ANNE BOLEYN, he writes that, when he was at WALTHAM, 2-ushers, 2-valets-de-chambre, GEORGE BOLEYN and Treasurer of the Household (WILLIAM FITZWILLIAM) fell ill from the SWEAT and are now quite well.

> **"The doubt I had of your health troubled me extremely, and I should scarcely have had any quiet without knowing the certainty; but since you have felt nothing, I hope it is with you as with us."**

He had removed to HUNSDON HOUSE in Hertfordshire (on June 20th. or 21st., 1517) "where we are very well, without one sick person. I think if you would retire from Surrey, as we did, you would avoid all danger. Another thing may comfort you: few women have this illness, and moreover none of our court, and few elsewhere, have died of it."

When Sir BRIAN TUKE went to Hunsdon on June 21, 1517 the King spoke to him of "the advantages of this house, and its wholesomeness at this time of sickness." Two days after, TUKE having business with the King, found him "in secret communication with his Physician, JOHN CHAMBER, in a Tower where he sometimes sups apart."

The King conversed with his Minister about the latter's ill-health (seemingly a kidney stone), and showed him remedies, "As any most cunning Physician in England could do."

As to the infection, the King spoke of how folk were taken, how little danger there was if good order be observed, how few were dead, how MISTRESS ANNE BOLEYN and my LORD ROCHFORD (her father) both have had it, what jeopardy they have been in by the turning in of the SWEAT before the time, of the endeavours of Mr Butts who had been with them, and finally of their perfect recovery.

The King sent advice to WOLSEY to use "Rhazi's Pills" once a week, and, if it come to it, to SWEAT moderately for the full time, without suffering it to run in. But the King's optimistic views of the malady quickly changed. WILLIAM CARY, married to Anne Boleyn's sister, died of the SWEAT suddenly at Hunsdon, having just arrived from Plashey, and two others of the Chamber, Poyntz and Compton, died about the same time either there or at Hertford, whither the King removed.

> **MUHAMMAD IBN ZAKARIYA AL-RAZI was one of the most well-known and respected Physicians during the 9th. Century because of his revolutionary contributions to Medicine and Psychiatry. al-Razi influenced several medical fields, including Pharmacology, Paediatrics, Neurology, Psychosomatic medicine, and Medical Ethics. He purified alcohol (ethanol) and pioneered its use in medicine. He rejected the notion of the mind-body dichotomy and considered mental health and self-esteem as significant factors that affect a person's health and well-being. With the idea of "sound mind in a healthy body," he was able to help many of his patients to attain complete health. He was one of the first known Physicians to describe the idea of PSYCHOTHERAPY. He used Psychotherapy in a primitive but dynamic form in his practice.**

On the evening of June 20, 1517 there fell sick at Hertford, the MARQUIS and MARCHIONESS of Dorset, Sir THOMAS CHEYNEY, CROKE, NORRIS and WALLOP.

The King hastily left for HATFIELD, Hertfordshire on June 28, where still others appear to have taken the sickness. CARDINAL DU BELLAY, writing on June 30, says all but one of the Chamber have been attacked. From HATFIELD the King went at once to Tyttenhanger, a Country House which belonged to WOLSEY as ABBOT of St. ALBANS, and there he elected to take his chance of the SWEAT, keeping up immense fires to destroy the infection.

On July 7, 1517 Dr. BELL writes from Tyttenhanger to WOLSEY: "None have had the SWEAT here these 3-days, except Mr. Butts." Two days later, however, the MARCHIONESS of EXETER "sweated," and the King ordered all who were of the Marquis's company to depart, he himself removing 28-miles away to the Town of AMPTHILL, Bedfordshire, whence he thought of removing on July 22 to GRAFTON, Worcestershire, but was prevented by the prevalence of the infection there.

Shortly after ANNE BOLEYN returned to the Court. It is clearly to the period of her return that an undated letter of hers to WOLSEY belongs; after writing a few formal lines to make interest with the Cardinal, she took her letter to the King for him to add a postscript, which was as follows:

"Both of us desire to see you and are glad to hear you have escaped the Plague so well, trusting the fury of it is abated, especially with those that keep good diet as I trust you do."

Although the attacks mentioned in the correspondence of the time are many, the deaths are few. Sir BRIAN TUKE, Secretary to the King, sent a letter to Cardinal Wolsey's Secretary, on July 14, 1517 takes a somewhat sceptical line about the whole matter. His wife has "passed the SWEAT," but is very weak, and is broken out at the mouth and other places. He himself "puts away the SWEAT" from himself nightly (directly against the King's advice to him), though other people think they would kill themselves thereby.

He had done that during the last SWEAT and this, feeling sure that, as long as he is not first sick, the Sweat is rather provoked by disposition of the time, and by keeping men close, than by any infection, although the infection was a reality. Thousands have the SWEAT from FEAR, who need not otherwise sweat, especially if they observe good DIET. He believes that it proceeds much as of men's OPINION. It has been brought from LONDON to other parts by report; for when a healthy man comes from LONDON and talks of the Sweat, the same night all the Town is full of it, and thus it spreads as the FAME runs. Children, again, lacking this opinion, have it not, unless their Mothers kill them by keeping them TOO HOT if they SWEAT a little. It has not yet gone to GRAVELINES, Northern France and when it is at CALAIS people go from the one place to the other.

The Fifth Sweat in 1551.

It was not in LONDON, Middlesex that the sweat of 1551 began, but 160-miles away at SHREWSBURY, Shropshire on March 22, 1551 according to the manuscript Chronicle of that Town, or on April 15, 1551 according to Dr. JOHN CAIUS. No record remains of its prevalence at SHREWSBURY; the statement of CAIUS, that some 900-deaths had occurred in a single City corresponds to the facts for London, and has no more reference to Shrewsbury (where Caius never resided) than it has to Norwich (as in Blomfield's County history).

The strange influence in the air or soil advanced from SHROPSHIRE, as we learn from Dr. JOHN CAIUS, by way of Ludlow, in Shropshire, then Presteigne, in Wales, then West Chester in Cheshire, then Coventry in West Midlands, and Oxford in Oxfordshire, in only one of which places is anything known of it except Caius's remark that it proceeded "with great mortality." The best record of its prevalence on the way from Shrewsbury to London occurs in the Parish Register of Loughborough, in Leicestershire. Under the date of June, 1551, the Register has an entry: "The SWEAT called New Acquaintance, alias "STOUPE! KNAVE AND KNOW THY MASTER", began on the 24th of this month."

Then follow the names of 12-persons who were buried in 4-days, and, on the next page, under the heading of "The SWEAT or NEW ACQUAINTANCE," the names of 7 more, all buried in 3-days—making a total of 19 deaths in 6-days, presumably all dead of the SWEAT and presumably also the whole mortality from it in Loughborough, which had far heavier mortalities from the COMMON PLAGUE after years.

The date of its arrival at OXFORD, on the way to London, is not known; but a Physician then resident there, Dr. ETHREDGE, has left it on record that it attacked 60-victims in Oxford in one night, and next day more than 100 in the villages around; very few died of it at Oxford, which showed that the air of that University was more salubrious (healthful) than at Cambridge, where the 2-sons of the DUCHESS OF SUFFOLK died.

The SWEAT appeared suddenly in LONDON about the beginning of July, 1551 and had a short but active life of some 3-weeks. Deaths began to be reported on July 7th, 1551 and are entered in King Edward VI's Diary as having totalled 120-victims by July 10th in the LONDON District, including "one of my nobles and one of my chamberlains, so that I repaired to HAMPTON COURT with only a small company."

The Royal Diarist says that the victims fell into a DELIRIUM and died in that state.

On July 18, 1551 the King, in Council at HAMPTON COURT, issued an order to the Bishops, that they should "exhort the people to a diligent attendance at Common Prayer, and so avert the displeasure of Almighty God, having visited the Realm with the extreme PLAGUE of sudden death."

The diary of a LONDON CITIZEN says: "There died in LONDON many Merchants and great rich men and women, and young men and old, of the NEW SWEAT." Sir THOMAS SPEKE, one of the King's Council, died on July 12, 1551 at his house in Chancery Lane; next day Sir JOHN WALLOP also died. Sir John was "an old Knight and Gentleman," who had survived an attack of the SWEAT in 1528 when at Hertford with Henry VIII.

It is not clear whether some other deaths of notables in the same few days were due to the SWEAT. Three independent statements are extant of the mortality in London which had all been taken, doubtless, from the bills regularly compiled.

One gives the Deaths as 872 "from all diseases" in London from July 8-19, 1551," no more in all, and so the Chancellor is certified." Another gives the deaths "by the SWEATING SICKNESS" from July 7 - 20, 1551 as 938; and JOHN CAIUS gives the deaths from July 9 - 16, 1551 as 761, "besides those that died on the 7th and 8th July 1551, of whom no Register was kept. By July 30, 1551 an additional 142-victims had died, by which time it had practically ceased in London.

Dr. JOHN CAIUS adds that the SWEAT next prevailed in the Eastern and Northern parts of England until the end of August 1551 and ceased everywhere before the end of September 1551. The King, in a letter of August 22, 1551 written during his progress, says that the most part of England at that time was clear of any dangerous or infectious sickness.

Records at YORK make mention of a GREAT PLAGUE in 1551, but without describing it as "THE SWEAT".

The event which excited most attention was the death by the SWEAT of the 2-Sons of the widowed DUCHESS OF SUFFOLK, the young DUKE HENRY and his brother LORD CHARLES BRANDON, on July 16, 1551. They had been taken from Cambridge, for fear of the SWEAT, to the BISHOP OF LINCOLN'S PALACE at Bugden, in Huntingdonshire, their mother accompanying them; they fell ill immediately upon their arrival, the elder dying after an illness of 5-hours and his brother half-an-hour after him.

Besides the cases of the two noble youths and others at Cambridge, there are no particulars of its prevalence in "the Eastern and Northern parts of England" (Caius). However, we hear of it in the Register of a Country Parish in Devonshire, under the same name of "Stop-gallant" as in the Loughborough Register; and it is probable that those two casual notices indicate its diffusion all over England in the manner of INFLUENZA.

That Conclusion may find some support in the statement of one Hancock, Minister of Poole, Dorset: "God had plagued this realm most justly with three notable plagues: (1) The Posting Sweat, that posted from Town to Town throughout England and was named 'Stop-gallant,' for it spared none. For there were some dancing in the Court at nine o'clock that were dead at eleven." Its occurrence in Devonshire is proved by entries in the Parish Register of Uffculme: the whole burials in the year 1551 are 38; and of these no fewer than 27 occur in the first eleven days of August, and 16 of them in three days, the disease of which those persons died being named, in the Register, "The hote sickness or Stop-Gallant."

Comparing these records of the SWEAT OF 1551 with those of the years 1517 and 1528, we may conclude that the latest of those three outbreaks was not more severe than the earlier, and that, in the Court circle, it was probably milder. The gloomy rhetoric of Caius had led Hacker to construct a picture of its disastrous progress along the Valley of the Severn, in which there is not a single authentic detail. Caius says that he was a witness of it, but that must have been in London; and the figures for London, although they indicate a very sharp epidemic while it lasted, do not suggest a mortality greater at least than that of 1528.

The VENETIAN AMBASSADOR in writing a General Memoir on England 4-years after, says that all business was suspended in London, the shops closed and nothing attended to but the preservation of life; but as he makes a gross exaggeration in stating the deaths in London at 5,000 "during the first three days of its appearance," we may take it that his impressions were vague or his recollections grown dim.

Were it not for the isolated Notices of the SWEAT in LEICESTERSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE, we should hardly have been able to realize that Country Towns and Villages had been visited by an EPIDEMIC which was appalling both by its suddenness and by its fatality while it lasted. The name of "STOP-GALLANT," by which it is called in these Parish Registers, shows the sort of impression which it made; but so far as the mortality is concerned, that was often equalled, if not exceeded, in after years by forms of Epidemic Fever which had nothing of the SWEATING type, although they might also have been called "Stop-gallant," and indeed were so-called in France (*trousse galante*).

Apart from the notices in Parish Registers, we have the generalities of Dr Caius, which amount to no more than a funereal essay, in the scholastic manner, upon the theme of sudden death. It may be doubted whether Caius really knew the facts about the disease in the country. The 27 deaths within a few days in a small Devonshire village and the 19 in six days in a small Leicestershire town, are hardly to be reconciled with the statement in his Latin treatise of 1,555, that "women and serving folk, the plebeian and humble classes, even the Middle Class, did not feel it, but the "procurers" or Upper Classes did: they fled from it, to Belgium, France, Ireland and Scotland.

It was for these that he was chiefly concerned; and when he approaches his rhetorical task with the remark that "nothing is more difficult than to find suitable words for a great grief," we may take it that he was thinking rather of such moving cases as that of the widowed Duchess of Suffolk, who had lost her two sons in one day, than of wide-spread sickness and death throughout the homes of the people.

Nothing more is heard of The Sweat in England after the autumn of 1551, at least not under that name. Francis Keene, an "astronomer," prophesied in his Almanack for 1575, that the Sweat would return, "wherein he erred not much," says Thomas Cogan, "as there were many strange fevers and nervous sickness."

Some years before that, in 1558 (a year after influenza abroad), there prevailed in summer "divers strange and new sicknesses," among which was a "sweating sickness," so described by Dr John Jones, who had it at Southampton. We are, indeed, approaching the period of frequent and widespread epidemics of fever and of influenza, in both which types of disease sweating was occasionally a notable symptom, as in the influenza of 1580 abroad, in the fatal typhus of 1644 at Tiverton, in the widespread English fevers of 1658, and in the London typhus as late as 1750.

How those other types of fever, due as if to a "corruption of the air," are related generically to the English SWEAT is a question upon which something remains to be said before this Chapter is concluded. The history of THE ENGLISH SWEAT comes to a definite end with the Epidemic of 1551.

SWEATING SICKNESS of the original sort was never again the *SIGNUM PATHOGNOMICUM* of a whole Epidemic of fever.

Stop Gallant! The Forgotten Plague in England

Posted on June 29, 2020 by bryantannab

Lots of people have heard about the BLACK DEATH PLAGUE that swept fear and death across Europe and Asia, but few have heard about the ENGLISH SWEATING SICKNESS. This sickness claimed many lives. The mortality rate was between 30% to 50% depending on where a person lived, but in City areas it was reported to be 80% to 90%. The English Sweating Sickness caused 5-epidemics that took place in England in 1485, 1508, 1517, 1528, and 1551.

The first time it appeared in England was when HENRY VII in 1485 started his reign. Because of the irregular intervals between the five major outbreaks and its sudden onset and often fatal course, this disease brought panic and fear into 15th. and 16th. Century England. This disease had a quick onset and came without any warning. The early symptoms consisted of chills and tremors and was followed by high fever and severe fatigue and weakness. People often experienced complete body perspiration accompanied by a rash. These symptoms usually lasted 24-hours and Patients either recovered or died. Those who survived more than 24-hours, most often recovered, and the perspiration was replaced by excessive urination. THOMAS MOORE who lived during this disease said that this disease was "more harmful than the sword."

Unlike most medieval epidemics, the ENGLISH SWEATING SICKNESS affected the middle-aged more than the young and old. The poorer classes called the disease "Stop Gallant," because it affected more wealthy, upper-class males than the poorer males. Unfortunately, the pathogen and/or vector were never identified, and the cause of the disease is still unknown.

There were many hypotheses of the cause of the ENGLISH SWEATING SICKNESS. One was that it was a form of TYPHUS, but that was discounted because the speed at which the symptoms occurred and the short course of the disease did not correlate with typhus. Another possibility was INFLUENZA, which was also discounted because the SWEATING SICKNESS usually lacked any RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS or secondary cases of PNEUMONIA. Finally, in 1997, it was suggested that the cause came from a medieval ancestor of the HANTAVIRUS species.

There is reason to suggest that Sweating sickness could have been caused by an Old-world hantavirus with an ARVICOLINAE or MURIDAE rodent as the carrier.

The PICARDY SWEAT, also called MILITARY FEVER, is a disease that resembles ENGLISH SWEATING SICKNESS. It was found mostly in FRANCE but was also present in GERMANY, BELGIUM, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, and ITALY. It is interesting that in 1791, Wolfgang Mozart's cause of death was recorded as "severe military fever." This disease also caused SEVERE SWEATING but was less fatal than ENGLISH SWEATING SICKNESS.

The PICARDY SWEAT spread in small Villages where outbreaks occurred in Summer for short periods of time. The pathogen was described as "a virus that came from the field" and people who slept closer to the ground were more likely to become infected. In addition to PICARDY SWEAT, a similar disease was observed in occupied France during World War II. While it is impossible to say that these similar historic diseases were caused by HANTAVIRUS, they bear a resemblance to HANTAVIRUS OUTBREAKS seen today.

Perhaps an ancient form of HANTAVIRUS described in China in 900 AD, maintains its presence in RESERVOIR RODENTS, and continues to live with us today!

Hantavirus Disease

HANTAVIRUS DISEASE is caused by several different strains of HANTAVIRUSES. Hantaviruses are found in WILD RODENTS, such as mice and RATS, in different parts of the world. HANTAVIRUSES found in North America can cause Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, a severe lung disease which can be fatal. A milder form of the disease called Non-Pulmonary Hantavirus infection, can also occur. In the U.S., human hantavirus infections were first identified in the Southwest in 1993. Although most cases have occurred in states west of the Mississippi River, sporadic (single) cases have reported in several eastern states including New York.

Anyone who comes into contact with infected rodent droppings, urine, saliva, nesting materials, or particles from these, can get hantavirus disease. Exposure to poorly ventilated areas with active rodent infestations in households, is the strongest risk factor for infection. Entering rarely opened or seasonally closed buildings with rodent activity may also cause infection. In addition, visitors to rural areas and nature resorts - campers, hikers, and others who take part in activities outdoors - can become exposed to the virus.

Among documented U.S. cases of HPS, patients with potential occupational exposures have included grain farmers, an extension livestock specialist, field biologists, and agricultural, mill, construction, utility and feedlot workers. Many of these individuals also had household exposures.

Hantavirus infections are rare. Sporadic (single) cases may occur throughout the country, but most, greater than 90%, of the cases have occurred in the west of the Mississippi River. From 1995-2017, five New York State residents were diagnosed with hantavirus infection.

HOW IS HANTAVIRUS SPREAD?

Hantavirus is spread from WILD RODENTS, particularly MICE and RATS, to people.

The VIRUS, which is found in RODENT URINE, SALIVA, and FECES (POOP), can be easily released in the air in confined spaces when disturbed by rodents or human activities, such as sweeping or vacuuming. Breathing in the virus is the most common way of getting infected; however, people can also become infected by touching their mouth or nose after handling contaminated materials. While rare, a rodent's bite can also spread the virus.

The types of hantavirus found in the U.S. cannot be spread from one person to another.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF HANTAVIRUS DISEASE?

How long after infection do they appear? Most often symptoms occur 9-33 days after the virus enters the body, but symptoms can appear as early as 1-week or as late as 8-weeks. Early symptoms are general and include FEVER, FATIGUE, and MUSCLE PAIN.
Other symptoms may include HEADACHE, NAUSEA (a feeling of sickness in the stomach), VOMITING, DIARRHEA (loose stool/poop) and DIZZINESS.

As the illness progresses, the MAIN SYMPTOM of hantavirus infection is DIFFICULTY IN BREATHING, which is caused by FLUID BUILD-UP IN THE LUNGS, and which quickly progresses to an INABILITY TO BREATHE.

Infected people sometimes die of respiratory failure or shock. Mild illnesses not requiring hospitalization also have been reported.

HOW IS HANTAVIRUS DISEASE DIAGNOSED?

Early diagnosis can be challenging since initial symptoms can be vague. It is important to talk to Health Care Providers about your exposure to RATS or MICE or their DROPPINGS.

If a person reports history of RODENT EXPOSURE and is experiencing FEVER, FATIGUE, and SHORTNESS OF BREATH, a Physician may draw blood to test for HANTAVIRUS INFECTION.

IS THERE ANY TREATMENT?

There is no specific treatment, cure, or vaccine for hantavirus disease. Early supportive treatment of patients with hantavirus disease can improve survival. If there is a high degree of suspicion of hantavirus disease, patients should be immediately transferred to an EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT or INTENSIVE CARE UNIT for close monitoring and care.

Rapid diagnosis and supportive treatment have increase the chance of survival.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT EXPOSURE TO HANTAVIRUSES?

- Avoid contact with rodent droppings or urine.
- Avoid touching live or dead rodents.
- Do not disturb rodents, burrows or nests.

The New York State Department of Health has created guidance on mice and rat control in the home and community.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO CLEAN UP AFTER RODENT DROPPINGS?

The virus, which is able to survive in the environment for a few hours or days (for example, in dirt and dust in the shade or in rodent nests) can be killed by most HOUSEHOLD DISINFECTANTS, such as BLEACH, DETERGENTS, or ALCOHOL.

Exposure to the sun's UV rays can also kill the virus.

Dwellings with large amounts of rodent droppings should first be aired before re-occupying the building. It is important to keep rodent dropping particles from getting into the air where they can be inhaled.

The debris should be thoroughly wetted down with a HOUSEHOLD DISINFECTANT SOLUTION (such as detergent plus 1½ cups of bleach for each gallon of water) to reduce airborne dust.

An old spray bottle with a fine mist is ideal for applying the solution.

Debris should then be wiped up while wearing disposable gloves and placed in plastic bags for disposal, together with any cleanup materials such as paper towels.

Do not use VACUUM CLEANERS or sweep with BROOMS, which will create dust in the air.

Use of disposable gloves, dust masks, long-sleeved clothing, and protective eyewear may help prevent personal exposure.

WASH HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER AFTER COMPLETING THE CLEANUP.

BUY YOURSELF A CAT …