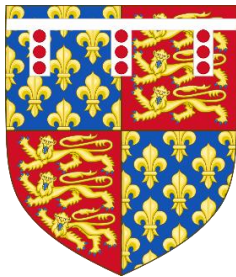
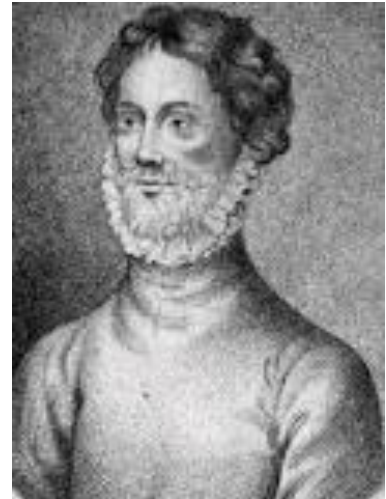


Edmund of Langley, 1st Duke of York

Born: 5 June 1341, Kings Langley
Died: 1 August 1402 (aged 61), Kings Langley
Buried: Entombed in All Saints Church, Kings Langley
Spouse(s): Isabella of Castile
Joan Holland
Issue: Edward, 2nd Duke of York
Constance, Countess of Gloucester
Richard, 3rd Earl of Cambridge
House(s): Plantagenet (by birth)
York (founder)
Father: Edward III, King of England
Mother: Philippa of Hainault



Before King Ferdinand I of Portugal,



Edmund's tomb in All Saints' Church, brought to the church in 1575 after the nearby priory had been dissolved.

Edmund of Langley, 1st Duke of York, [KG](#) (5 June 1341 – 1 August 1402) was the fourth surviving son of King [Edward III of England](#) and [Philippa of Hainault](#). Like many medieval English princes, Edmund gained his nickname from his birthplace: [Kings Langley Palace](#). He was the founder of the [House of York](#), but it was through the marriage of his younger son, [Richard of Conisburgh, 3rd Earl of Cambridge](#), to [Anne de Mortimer](#), great-granddaughter of Edmund's elder brother [Lionel of Antwerp, 1st Duke of Clarence](#), that the House of York made its claim to the English throne in the [Wars of the Roses](#). The other party in the Wars of the Roses, the incumbent [House of Lancaster](#), was formed from descendants of Edmund's elder brother [John of Gaunt](#), 1st Duke of Lancaster, Edward III's third son.

Early years

On the death of his godfather, the [Earl of Surrey](#), Edmund was granted the earl's lands north of the Trent, primarily in [Yorkshire](#). In 1359, he joined his father King Edward III on an unsuccessful military expedition to France and was made a [knight of the Garter](#) in 1361. In 1362, at the age of twenty-one, he was created [Earl of Cambridge](#) by his father.

Military career

Edmund took part in several military expeditions to France in the 1370s. In 1369, he brought a retinue of 400 men-at-arms and 400 archers to serve with [John Hastings, 2nd Earl of Pembroke](#), on campaigns in [Brittany](#) and [Angoulême](#). The following year, he first joined Pembroke again on an expedition to relieve the fortress of [Belle Perche](#) and then accompanied his eldest brother [Edward, the Black Prince](#), on a campaign that resulted in the siege and sack of [Limoges](#). In 1375, he sailed with the [Earl of March](#) to relieve [Brest](#), but after some initial success, a truce was declared.

In the 1370s, English envoys entered into an alliance with [Ferdinand I of Portugal](#), where [Portugal](#) promised to attack [Castile](#) with the [Lancastrian army](#). As a consequence of [the Caroline War](#) in

France, [John of Gaunt](#) was forced to postpone the invasion of Castile. In 1381, Edmund finally led an abortive expedition to press John's claim to Castile, joining with King Ferdinand in attacking [Castile](#) as part of the [Fernandine Wars](#). After months of indecisiveness, a peace was again declared between Castile and Portugal, and Edmund had to lead his [malcontented](#) troops home.

Edmund was appointed [Constable of Dover Castle](#) and [Warden of the Cinque Ports](#) on 12 June 1376 and held office until 1381. On 6 August 1385, he was elevated to [Duke of York](#). Edmund acted as Keeper of the Realm in 1394/95 when his nephew, King [Richard II of England](#), campaigned in [Ireland](#) and presided over Parliament in 1395. He was also keeper of the realm in 1396 during the king's brief visit to France to collect his child-bride [Isabella of Valois](#). The duke was left as Custodian of the Realm in the summer of 1399 when Richard II departed for another extended campaign in Ireland. In late June of that year, the exiled [Henry Bolingbroke](#) landed at [Bridlington](#) in Yorkshire. He raised an army to resist Bolingbroke, then decided instead to join him, for which he was well rewarded. He thereafter remained loyal to the new Lancastrian regime as Bolingbroke overthrew Richard II to become King Henry IV.

Later life

In Richard II's will, Edmund was highly emphasised as the king's heir despite the stronger claims of Henry of Bolingbroke and [Edmund Mortimer](#). This was not due to any preference Richard had for Edmund, but rather a desire the king had to set Edmund's son, Edward, on the throne. Towards the end of his life, in 1399, he was appointed [Warden of the West March](#) for a short period. Otherwise, from 1399 onward he retired from public life.

Edmund of Langley died in his birthplace and was interred at [King's Langley Priory](#); however, his tomb was relocated to the nearby [All Saints' Church, Kings Langley](#) in 1575 after the priory had been [dissolved](#). When the tomb was moved again during church restoration work in 1877, three bodies, one male and two female, were found inside. His dukedom passed to his eldest son, [Edward](#). He was the last of his siblings to die and lived the longest out of all of them.

Marriage

Langley's first wife, [Isabella](#), was a daughter of King [Peter of Castile](#) and [María de Padilla](#). She was also the sister of the [Infanta Constance of Castile](#), the second wife of Langley's brother [John of Gaunt](#). They had two sons and a daughter:

- [Edward of Norwich, 2nd Duke of York](#) (c. 1373 – 25 October 1415), killed in action at the [Battle of Agincourt](#).
- [Constance of York](#) (c. 1374 – 28 November 1416), great-grandmother of Queen [Anne Neville](#).
- [Richard of Conisburgh, 3rd Earl of Cambridge](#) (c. 20 July 1385 – 5 August 1415), executed for treason by [Henry V](#). Ancestor of Kings [Edward IV](#), [Edward V](#), and [Richard III](#) of the [House of York](#), and all succeeding monarchs of England beginning with King [Henry VIII](#), whose mother [Elizabeth of York](#) was his great-granddaughter.

After Isabella's death in 1392, Edmund married his second cousin once removed [Joan Holland](#), whose great-grandfather [Edmund of Woodstock, 1st Earl of Kent](#), was the half-brother of Langley's grandfather [Edward II](#); she and Langley were thus both descended from King [Edward I](#). The young Joan was the granddaughter of his late sister-in-law [Joan of Kent](#). The marriage produced no children.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_of_Langley,_1st_Duke_of_York

[All Saints Church](#) is generally open for visiting and for tours and where further information can be obtained.