**The wars of the roses**

**The 15th century**

In 1455, while **Henry VI** was still minor, the two most powerful families in

England began a civil war for control of the throne and the country. The symbol of the **House of Lancaster was a red rose**, the symbol of the **House of York a** **white rose**.

Henry VI was murdered in the Tower and so were two young princes. The Wars of the Roses ended when **Henry Tudor** (Lancaster) defeated **Richard III** (York) at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, and became Henry VII and married Elizabeth of York, thus uniting two sides.

King **Richard III** (1483-85) is described in contemporary history as a cruel man

who had two young princes, his nephews, murdered in the Tower, to keep the throne for himself. Shakespeare in his play *Richard III* describes several more crimes of the King.

The best known line is what the king shouts when his horse was killed on the Bosworth battlefield: “A horse! **My kingdom for a horse!”**

Zdroj:

PEPRNÍK, Jaroslav. *Británie a USA: ilustrované reálie*. 1. vyd. Olomouc : Nakladatelství Olomouc,

2004. s. 36. ISBN 80-7182-182-9.

  

**The house of Lancaster** **The House of York The Tudor Rose**