

Character Profiles

Character profiles for role-play or hot-seating

Park Keeper	Edward Stanley – knighted in 1541
Park Keeper's wife.....	Elizabeth Stanley (his second wife, they married 1501, she died 1515)
Park Keeper's son.....	Thomas Stanley (aged c 12 in 1514)
Park Keeper's daughter.....	Jane (aged c 10 in 1514)
Pale Repairer/Palisader.....	John Marsden
Pale Repairer's youngest son.....	Tom aged 10
Pale Repairer's eldest son.....	William (Will) aged 18 (general jobs in the park – beater, winter feeding)
Pale Repairer's wife.....	Mary Marsden
Cook at Hornby Castle.....	Name to be agreed in the group

Edward Stanley



Edward Stanley is very loyal to the King. Edward spent many years as a soldier. **1487 was appointed Park Keeper for Leagram and Radholme at the age of 27 and maintained the position remaining years of his life (aged 63)**

During the period 1506-10 Henry VII ordered a Rent Review carried out by Sir Richard Empson (the King's hatchet man!) who wanted to double everyone's rent on the King's estate. But Sir Edward Stanley managed to bargain successfully to keep his rents as they were. This was probably because of his close association with the King and that he was respected as a good manager. For our role play situation Edward returns from London after being installed as a Knight Garter. He mentions to his wife about the possibility of the young King Henry VIII travelling north to visit Hornby Castle and go hunting in Leagram Deer Park. Therefore lots to be done in preparation. (See Jenny Anderson's picture.)

Additional Notes

Born about 1460. His family's services at the Battle of Bosworth gained him Henry's favour when he became King Henry VII. **Edward's father Thomas Stanley was later married to Margaret Beaufort** (Henry VII's mother).

Edward became High Sheriff of Lancashire for life in the autumn of 1485; he also became knight of the body to the king.

In 1513 he was prominent in the Battle of Flodden Field when it was reported he distinguished himself. It is believed he killed James IV of Scotland with his own hand (his name occurs in a line of Walter Scott's *Marmion*: 'Charge, Chester, charge—on, Stanley, on'). Thomas Ruthall, Bishop of Durham, reported that Stanley behaved well, and recommended his elevation to the peerage for his services.

On 8 May 1514 he was installed Knight of the Garter. Six days later he is said to have landed at Calais and fought the French.

On 23 November 1514 he was summoned to the House of Lords as Baron Monteagle.

He was present at the Field of the Cloth of Gold in June 1520.

He died on 6 April 1523, and was buried at Hornby, Lancashire where the family owned Hornby Castle. There he had set up a religious foundation in commemoration of his success at Flodden.

Edward's second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Vaughan.

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Elizabeth Stanley



Elizabeth is very supportive of her husband.

She will always back him up publically but to a 21st Century listener she will tell you that she knows that Edward is worried about the rising costs of managing the deer parks and that being a soldier he would rather be away fighting for England than managing deer. She's not keen on hunting.

She isn't a well woman, she complains of the effect eating rich food has on her stomach and the limited lavatory arrangements around the deer parks.

She would like to see more vegetables grown locally as these she finds better to eat than lots of meats but most of the land is taken over by the deer park. She will only eat vegetables grown above ground as those grown underground are only eaten by the poor.

If the young king accepts her husband's invitation to travel north and hunt in the Leagram Park, she will have to discuss with the cook a suitable feasting menu. (See information in Tudor Food Power Point presentation.)

Elizabeth, like all her family, is a good Catholic and follows the teachings of the Church of Rome.

She will want to know if Queen Catherine will be joining the king on his visit (Catherine of Aragon) and the estimated number of nobles from the Royal Court).

Thomas Stanley



Thomas Stanley is aged 12

He admires his father, is respectful to his mother and tolerates his younger sister.

He enjoys outdoor activities. He plays with the local children and has got quite friendly with the young Marsden boy (Tom). He practices using a sword and riding his horse. He loves accompanying his father on deer hunts. He will go with his father to check that the pale is in good order and that there are sufficient deer to hunt.

He will be excited about the possibility of King Henry visiting and going hunting. He will be keen to know what the cook and kitchen staff will prepare for the feasts that Henry enjoys. He doesn't think that he will be allowed in the grand banqueting hall but he might get to eat some of the dishes later. He has a sweet tooth. He thinks that he will need a fine new tunic.

Additional Notes

Following his father's death he succeeded to the peerage and became, 2nd Baron Monteagle. He died in 1560.

Jane Stanley



Jane Stanley is 10 years old. She doesn't think that it's fair being a girl because her brother gets to do lots of things that she would like to do but isn't allowed to. She gets to do 'girls' things' like embroidery (boring!) but she is allowed to go out riding with a chaperone.

She feels that she is too old to play childish games.

She will be very excited about Henry VIII's visit. She has heard that he is good looking and very athletic and has the company of other handsome young men. (She knows that soon her parents will be considering finding a husband for her.) She will want to talk to her parents about getting a new fine gown and seeing the King.

John Marsden



John Marsden has worked on the deer park all his life. He is hard working and good at repairing the pale around the deer park.

He is a poor man, married with two sons and two daughters still living at home. He just about manages to earn enough money to feed his family. (He might have poached the odd rabbit for the pot but has never been caught.)

If the young king accepts the park keeper's invitation then John will be busy and might make a little extra money.

He has heard that Henry is keen on hunting and will expect to hunt down many deer as sport. His eldest son will have to help check on the deer and maybe give them extra food. The king will want to kill a stag so one or two will need to be prepared.

Ann Marsden



Ann Marsden has been married to John for many years and struggles to keep everyone fed and clothed. She does a few odd jobs around the estate to get in a bit of extra money. She is always repairing clothing for her family and others.

She sometimes cooks meats that have arrived in her home as a result of poaching – rabbits, hare and pheasants. She keeps a few hens for eggs and meat.

Ann is worried about her son William who has started taking about killing an odd deer when winter sets in and there isn't much around to eat. She knows that such an act is very dangerous and carries a heavy punishment and would bring shame on the family.

Tom Marsden



Tom Marsden has an older brother William who he admires and likes to spend time with in the deer park. He has learnt how to poach a rabbit and so far hasn't been caught!

He goes with his father when he's repairing parts of the pales and is learning some of the skills but he'd rather just run around and play.

He's met Thomas Stanley when he's visited the park with Sir Stanley. He likes to play mock fighting with Thomas who is just a bit older than him. They play hide and seek in the scrubland. He thinks that Thomas's younger sister, who is the same age as him, is 'stuck up'. They never play together.

William Marsden



William Marsden (Will) is the eldest child of John and Ann Marsden who still lives at home with his parents and younger family members.

Like his father he works in the deer park as and when there is work to be done. He helps out with herding stock (cows and horses) off the park two weeks before midsummer and back again a month later. (This gives time for the deer to give birth to their fawns.) He helps out with winter feeding and takes Tom with him when he's acting as a 'beater' during a deer hunt.

He knows how hard his parents find it to feed everyone at home and sometimes helps himself to the odd pheasant, hare or rabbit. He has a couple of friends who are talking about poaching a deer later on in the year. He's thinking about joining them.

