## TUDOR LONDON



BY: JUSTIN CIRISOLI HISTORY 203 SPRING 2008 Rutherford's *London* is a historical, fictional text which portrays the happenings in the history of London from a different prospective. By incorporating a mix of fact with the characters of fiction, Rutherford is able to create a believable, detailed history of one of the most famous cities in the world.

Chapter 10 in *London* is called Hampton Court. This is a reference to the historical palace called Hampton Court, "in its great deer park besides the Chames, a dosen miles upriver from London, the huge, red-brick Tudor palace of Hampton Court lay in the warm sun" (Rutherford, 542). The first character in the chapter we meet is Susan Bull. Susan Bull is a twenty-eight year old woman. We first meet her as she is walking to Hampton Court. As she walked she "could hear the distant sounds of courtiers' laughter" (Rutherford, 542). Thomas Wolsey, then Arthbishop of York and Chief Minister to the King, took over the lease in 1514 and rebuilt the 14<sup>n</sup> century manor house over the next seven years from 1515-1521 to form the nucleus of the present palace. Wolsey spent lavishly to build the





England at Hampton Court, which he was later forced to give to Henry as he began to fall from favor.

The palace was appropriated by Wolsey's master and superior, King Henry VIII, in 1525. Henry VIII added the Great Hall, which goes down in history as the last medieval Great Hall built for the English monarchy and the Royal Tennis Court, which was built and is still in use for the game of tennis; though not the version we know today. The court is now the oldest "real" tennis court in the world that is still in use.

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Hampton Court is said to be haunted with the spirits of Jane Seymour and Catherine Howard, two of Henry VIII's wives. Queen Jane Seymour gave birth to Prince Edward, the future king following the death of Henry VIII, at Hampton Court in 1537. She died at the palace twelve days later, and her nhost is said to have the staircase in the Dalace to this day.

Queen Catherine Howard was arrested there in 1542 and is said to have run along the Long Gallery screaming for Henry VIII to save her, before his guards caught her and dragged her away. Her ghost is said to haunt the palace, sometimes screaming in the same hallway where she was arrested. There have also been reports of seeing the ghosts of Henry VIII himself and Anne Holeyn.

Dency VIII had in total six wives throughout his life. A history teacher freshmen year of college taught me how to remember them: bivorced, beheaded, and died, bivorced, beheaded, and survived. Henry VIII married his first wife, Catherine of Aragon from Spain following the death of his brother, Arthur, who was Catherine's first husband. Catherine unable to bear a male heir, Henry VIII started pursuing the now infamous, Anne Boleyn. To pursue his besire for a male child, he pushed for divorce from Catherine and it failed. The Catholic Church would not grant the King's wish. With this, Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church and created the Church of England, which then granted his divorce. The marriage was later annulled so Henry was free to marry again. Denry remarried to Anne Boleyn. Catherine was formally stripped of her title as queen and Anne was consequently crowned queen on June 1, 1533. The queen gave birth on September 7, 1533 to a baby girl, Cli3abeth. With the Act of Succession 1533, Parliament declared Catherine's daughter, Mary (later Alary, Queen of Scots) illegitimate and Cli3abeth would be next in succession, only if a male heir is not born.

On January 8, 1536 news reached the king and the queen that Catherine of Aragon had died. Apon hearing the news of her death, Henry and Anne reportedly decked themselves in bright pellow clothing. Henry called for public displays of joy regarding Catherine's death. The queen was pregnant again, and she was aware of the consequences if she failed to give birth to a son. Her life could be in danger, as with both wives dead. Henry would be free to remarry and no one could claim that the union was illegal. Later that month, the King was undorsed in a tournament and was hadly injured. It seemed for a time that the King's life was in danger. When news of this accident reached the queen she was sent into shock and miscarried a male child that was about 15 weeks old. This happened on the bery day of Catherine's funeral, January 29, 1536. On May 2, the Queen herself was arrested at Greenwich and was informed of the charges against her: adultery, incest and plotting to murder the King. She was then taken to the Tower by barge along the same path she had traveled to prepare for her coronation just three years earlier. In fact, she was lodged in the same rooms she had held on that occasion. On Monday the 15th, the Queen and her brother were put on trial at the Great



her. Her brother was tried next, with his own wife testifying against him. Even though the evidence against them was scant, they were both found guilty, with the sentence being read by their uncle, Thomas Howard, the Duke of Portolk. They were to be either burnt at the stake (which was the punishment for incest) or beheaded, at the discretion of the King. Interestingly, shortly before her execution on charges of adultery, the Queen's marriage to the King was dissolved and declared invalid. One would wonder then how she could have committed adultery if she had in fact never been married to the King, but this was overlooked, as were so many other lapses of logic in the charges against Anne. They came for Anne on the morning of May 10 to take her to the Tower Green, where she was to be alforded the dignity of a private execution. She

wore a red petticoat under a loose, dark grey gown of damask trimmed in fur. Over that she was a mantle of ermine. Her long, dark hair was bound up under a simple white linen coif over which she wore her usual headdress. She made a short speech before kneeling at the block. Her ladies removed the headdress and tied a blindfold over her eves. The sword itself had been hidden under



the straw. The swordsman cut off her head with one swift stroke. Anne's body and head were put into an arrow chest and buried in an unmarked grave in the Chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula which adjoined the Tower Green. Her body was one that was identified in renovations of the chapel under the reign of Queen Victoria, so Anne's final resting place is now marked in the marble floor. "Then King Henry married again. But he did not return the Church to Rome. He liked being the Supreme Head, and besides, the money he was now deriving from the Church was considerable" (Rutherford, 608). Denry USSS died in 1547. Under the Act of Succession 1543, Denry's only survituing legitimate son, Edward, inherited the Crown, becoming Edward US, Since Edward was only nine years old at the time, he could not exercise actual power. Denry's will designated 16 executors to serve on a council of regency until Edward reached the age of 18. The executors chose Edward Seymour, Jane Seymour's elder brother, to be Lord Dirotector of the Realm. In default of heirs to Edward, the throne was to pass to Denry USSS's daughter by Catherine of Aragon, the Princess Marp and her heirs. If Marp's issue also failed, the crown was to go to Denry's daughter by Anne Boleyn, Princess Clisabeth, and her heirs. Finally, if Clisabeth's line also became extinct, the crown was to be inherited by the descendants of Denry VISI's deceased younger sister, Marp Tudor. The descendants of Denry's sister Margaret Tudor, the royal family of Scotland, were therefore excluded from succession according to this act.

Ring Edward VI ruled for a short time before expiring before he ever reached maturity. His death caused another succession crisis ending with his half-sister, Mary, taking the throne. She ruled under the nickname Bloody Alary. As queen, she had many Protestants executed. She died having bore no child. Her half sister, Cli3abeth ascended to the throne, returning Protestantism to the monarchy. She reigned for many, successful years, beclaring herself the Virgin Queen, as she would never married for she was married to England. She died with no herr, hence turning the line to the Stuarts.

## Sites Used:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\_I\_of\_England

http://tudorhistory.org/boleyn/

http://tudorhistory.org/boleyn/

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