

Petition - Complaint for wrongful arrest by John Neuton about 1483

To the right honourable sadde and discrete counsell of the right high and mighty prince Edward prince of Wales and Duke of Cornewaile

I ---vently? complaineth to your noble wisdom your humble and contynuell Grace. John Neuton show that Where as one Richard Boturnall Thomas Leonard and ?--- by vertue of the Stannarye by one Thomas Cullbad-? understeward of ye same and his ?--- there to the sead mysdoers deluded to arrest your sead besecher & the sead mysdoers ba---? ?--- and affect and ?--- of ye sead understeward the fryday next before Sant George day last past came to Byryowe in ye parish of northill in ye sead Comte ?--- ye said besecher from hous to hous the same your besecher at that tyme being Constable of ye same parish and occupied in the service of our lege lord the tyme in nadering? ?--- -all--? the same mysdoers understanding yett pursued him to Trewody Downe and there toke him and arrested him by Vertue of ye same warrant and so carried him from ?--- ?--- place called semt? ny--? how be-et? the sead John Newton asserted after ye custome of the Stannary to finde 2 suretees to abide the lawe which ye sead mysdoers refused and carried him forth to a Pretende Franchise called Blisland xiiij myles from his hous and there arrested ye said besecher by acrye And so he was detained by force ?--- ?--- for his fees And by the sead undue meanes your sead besecher is greuously vexed from court to court so that he by the sead mysdoers hath lost c s And by no person of meanes your said besecher can be delivered out of ye sead acrye how he is hit hath end be accustomed in ye stannary that every tyme complaints be ?--- of ?--- of matters in my lord prince court of the Stannarye to the grate harm and loss of your sead besecher without your gracious prince doe harm be the ?--- ?--- Please it before your noble wisdom sadde and wise discretione the premise tenderly to consider And how the contrey there by ye ?--- of ye sead warrant ?--- tyme it hath to be destroyed without your gracious remedye And if upon of your blessed dispositione to do calle the said Thomas now being here present before you And to see ordaine and provide for a remedye in ye premise So thut your sead besecher may peasably lyve in rest and peas hereafter without any such nuis---? and wrongs to him to be done by the sead Thomas as here depicted? or by any of ye sead mysdoers And there for ye love of god and in way of charite

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Source: The National Archives document ref no SC 8/344/E1269

Transcribed by Ken & Teresa Ripper with assistance from Tony Bennett

(Note regarding dating of the document: This is addressed to "To the right honourable sadde and discrete counsell of the right high and mighty prince Edward prince of Wales and Duke of Cornewaile" and this may help to date it.

Edward IV died on 9 Apr 1483 and was succeeded by his twelve year old son Edward Prince of Wales who became Edward V,

The petition may date from the reign of Edward IV, otherwise Edward Prince of Wales would not be described as such. Edward had his own Council as Prince of Wales, - he was, at least nominally, president of the Council of Wales and the Marches, based at Ludlow. The logic of his being petitioned in this way may lie with his position as Duke of Cornwall.

In an attempt to explain the unusual use of the word 'sadde' in the address to Edward this may be a reference to the health or death of his father, Edward IV. The complaint is addressed to his council who may be those working with The Lord Protector, Richard, Duke of Gloucester. Because Edward was just twelve

years old when he succeeded to the throne his father had nominated his own brother, Richard, as Lord Protector for the time of the young king's youth.

Conventional history now tells us the story of the "Murder of the Princes in the Tower". Richard met young Edward on his journey to London from Ludlow and instead of arranging for the boy's coronation he incarcerated him in the Tower of London with his brother Prince Richard, Duke of York, and they were subsequently murdered there. Richard, Duke of Gloucester, took the throne and became Richard III on 23 Jun 1483.)

From The National Archive

Petitioners: John Neuton (Newton).

Addressees: Council of Prince Edward.

Nature of request: Neuton states that Calwod (sic) and his deputy delivered a warrant to Boturnall, Leonard and others to arrest the petitioner, and with the assent and conspiracy of the under-steward they came the Friday next before St George's day last to Berriowbridge and searched for him from house to house, but Neuton was constable of the parish at that time and was occupied in the king's business elsewhere, so that they pursued him to Trewody Downe and arrested him by virtue of the warrant and carried him away, refusing to accept his offer of surety by two people to keep the peace according to the custom of the Stannary. Afterwards they took him to a pretended franchise called Blisland 14 miles from his home and there arrested him by 'acrye', and there he was delivered by surety paying 5s. for his fees, and by this undue means is vexed from court to court and has lost 100s., and is denied delivery against the custom that pertains to tinnars in the prince's court of the Stannary to the petitioner's great harm and loss, and he is likely to be destroyed without the prince's remedy. He requests that Calwod be called 'now being here present' before them, and to see, ordain and provide for a remedy in the premises so that the petitioner can peaceably live in rest and peace hereafter without any such wrongs being done to him by Calwod or his deputies or any of the evildoers.

Note: A cover note preceding this file of petitions indicates that the petitions SC 8/344/E1262-E1316B mostly date to the period 1481-1483, and nearly all appear to belong to the period 1471-1483, this latter date being the dates that Edward Plantagenet, Edward IV's eldest son, held the principality of Wales and the county of Chester. This petition is dated to the latter range, 1471-1483 because there is no evidence that would allow a narrower dating.
