



## **The Paston Papers; 15<sup>th</sup>-Century English Life**

Visit the real world behind Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, and meet the original knight, Sir John Fastolf, who inspired Falstaff! Life in England during the Wars of the Roses is brought vividly before us through hundreds of letters written by three generations of both men and women of the Paston family. From imprisonment to knighthoods, follow the fortunes of this upwardly mobile land-owning family in Norfolk during the reigns of Henry VI, Edward IV, and Richard III.

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Wednesday 2:15-4:15 Loomis Village, South Hadley

### **Required Resources:**

Richard Barber, *The Pastons: A Family in the Wars of the Roses*.

Norman Davis, *The Paston Letters: A Selection in Modern Spelling*.

### **Recommended Resource:**

H.S. Bennett, *The Pastons and Their England*.

Additional resources will be suggested for particular topics.

### **Suggested Seminar Topics:**

Margaret Paston, wife , mother, and defender of her household

John Paston I and Fastolf: How Shakespeare created a character

Margery Paston and Richard Calle: a marriage made in heaven?

John Paston III and a Burgundian royal wedding

John Paston II and John Paston III in the wars

John Paston III and knighthood in the 15<sup>th</sup> century

Life in the Paston's castle, Caister, and in their manor houses

Political power in Norfolk – the Duke of Norfolk

Political power in Norfolk – the Duke of Suffolk

The Church in Norfolk in the 15<sup>th</sup> century

Gardening in 15<sup>th</sup> century Norfolk

Farming in 15<sup>th</sup> century Norfolk

Food and Cooking in the 15<sup>th</sup> century

Textiles and clothing in the 15<sup>th</sup> century

Education in the 15<sup>th</sup> century

The Wars of the Roses

Health and Medical Care in the 15<sup>th</sup> century

Life at the royal court

