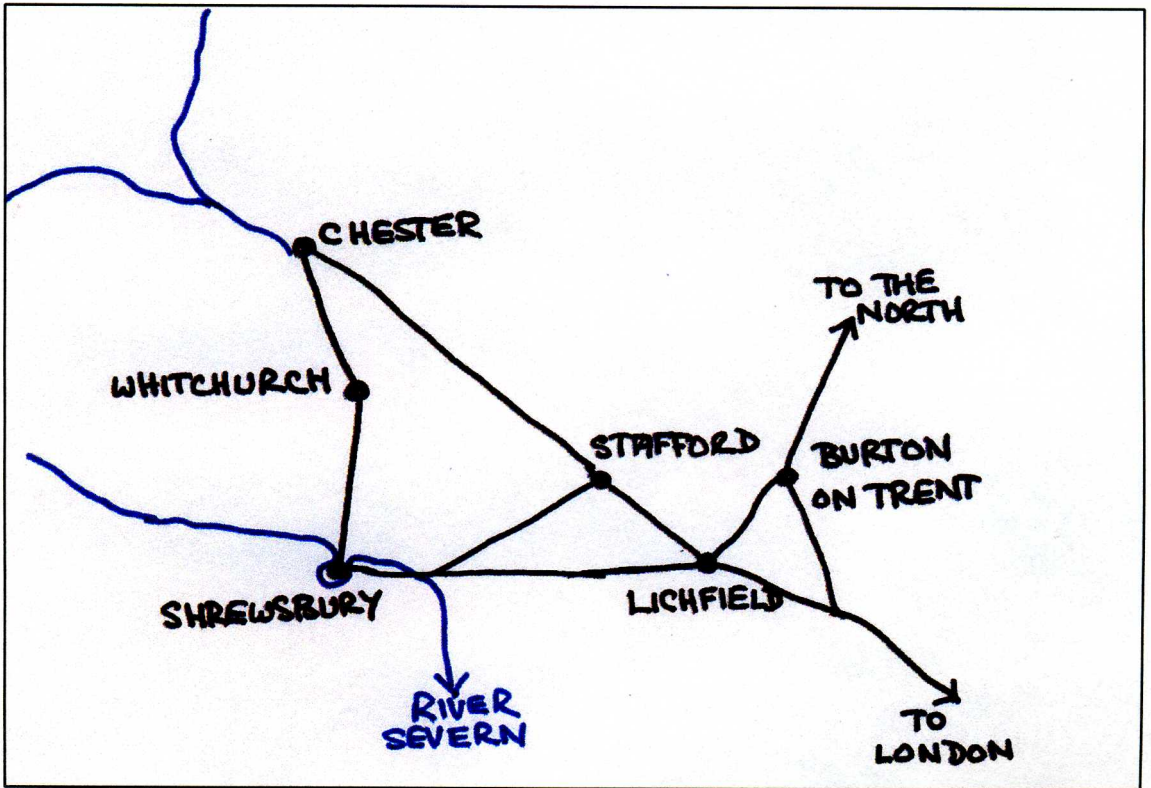


Events leading up to the Battle of Shrewsbury.

by Susan Laflin-Barker

To reconstruct the events leading up to the battle of Shrewsbury, it is necessary to consider the sources and later accounts and evaluate their accuracy and bias. The attempt to reconcile conflicting accounts and produce a single coherent narrative is always difficult and sometimes impossible. So far as the battle of Shrewsbury is concerned, there is overall agreement on the general outline of events, although different authorities differ on various details.

Let us consider the events starting at the beginning of July 1403. Owen Glendower and Edmund Mortimer (Hotspur's brother-in-law) were leading a revolt against King Henry in Wales. They set out on a chevauchee in south Wales and by July, were leading a triumphal march down the Tywi valley in Carmarthenshire (Davies, 1995, p.112) and were not distracted from this by any of the other events. Their only influence on the events was the possible expectation by Hotspur that they would come to Shrewsbury to join him when he rebelled against King Henry.



Prince Henry, accompanied by Sir Thomas Percy (Earl of Worcester and uncle to Hotspur) and a small army had been on a chevauchee against Glendower's home in north Wales and by mid July had returned to Shrewsbury having burnt Glendower's house and collected a certain amount of loot. Prince Henry was only fifteen and was learning the art of warfare under the guidance of Thomas Percy. He was said to have been a great admirer of Hotspur and also a favourite of King Richard and the rebels may have hoped that he would join them.

