

## **Lady Jane Grey. The Nine Days Queen.**

Early in 1553, Edward's health began to fail. **Northumberland** being a **Protestant** and having carried out various Protestant changes within the Church, was **worried** by the thought of the **Catholic Mary Tudor** coming to the throne. Edward VI, on the advice of first Somerset and then Northumberland has refused Mary permission to marry. Northumberland persuaded Edward to make a will. In this will Edward left the crown to the male heirs of his second cousin, Lady Jane Grey. In the **will**, both **Mary and Elizabeth were barred** from the throne because they were women. Northumberland then quickly married Lady Jane Grey to his son, Guildford Dudley so that a male heir might hopefully be born. Unfortunately, for Northumberland and his wild plan, **Edward died in July 1553**, soon after the marriage. However, by this time, the **will** appears to have been **altered** to state that **Lady Jane Grey** should succeed Edward. Whether Edward had been persuaded to change the will or whether Northumberland had altered it, we will never know. Although, she was a granddaughter of Henry VII, **her claim was weak** compared to that of Mary and Elizabeth Tudor or even Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary was overlooked, purely because she was a Catholic. Edward's death was kept secret for three days whilst Northumberland bullied the Council into accepting Jane as Edward's heir. Lady Jane was proclaimed Queen. **She reigned for nine days!** Northumberland sent out spies to capture Mary but she managed to evade them and escaped to Norfolk where there was strong Catholic support. From here she wrote to the council demanding the throne. No child of Henry VIII's was likely to give up the throne too lightly. Northumberland has miscalculated public opinion. **Much of the country supported Mary Tudor.** Northumberland gathered an army to fight Mary. Suddenly, the Council at a meeting in London changed their minds and came out in support of Mary Tudor.

Time had run out for **Northumberland**, **he was captured and executed** and Lady Jane and Guildford Dudley were imprisoned in the Tower. Lady Jane had never wanted to be Queen and recognised Mary's right. Mary felt sorry for Lady Jane, and was aware that she had been used as a pawn in her father's power games. She remained alive so long as she was no threat to Mary. Later executed along with her husband after Wyatt's Rebellion.