

NATIONAL ALLEGORY IN *BLEAK HOUSE*

Location of Bleak House at St. Albans: 1st English martyr. (303 A.D.)

Rouncewell's "strong Saxon face" (p. 417); "Norman house" (654). Norman conquest, 1066.

Watt Rouncewell + Wat Tyler: Peasant Rebellion (1381).

Richard as Dick Whittington - pp. 73, 75 (and Jo as Whittington - p. 457). Whittington died 1523.

Smallweed as Guy Fawkes puppet - pp. 389-90: refers to 1605 plot against Parliament.

Dedlocks - Ghost's Walk and English Civil War (1640s).

George vs. Smallweeds: Hanoverians vs. Jacobites in 1745 ("Charley over the water" - p. 310)

Caddy and Prince: Caroline and Prince Regent (later King George IV) - their disastrous marriage, national controversy over it (early 19th century).

Bagnets: identified with defense of Empire (children's names). Praise of Woolwich: "He's a Briton" (p. 406)

Rosa: English rose

Lord Chancellor - highest legal representative, presides over British "law and order"

Chancery Court and Sir Leicester as spider - webs of negative relationship spreading out to whole nation.

Kenge: Jarndyce and Jarndyce "a case that could not exist, out of this free and great country" – nationally definitive.

Role of Gridley as counterpart to Jarndyce: rural periphery and urban center both affected. Gridley and Wordsworthian nationalism (cf. Wordsworth's "Michael").

"Esther" - Biblical: national heroine, savior of her people

raised at Windsor - p. 31

Woodcourt: half Welsh, half Highland Scot: if he marries Esther, union of Saxon and Celtic peoples of Britain.