

Souvenirs & Mementos

Luella May Young (1907-1978), the curator of Barnum House, gave me her copy of *“Shorter Poems”* (1932), edited by Prof. W. J. Alexander and published by The T. Eaton Co. of Toronto, after I composed the *“Red Carpet March”* in 1973. At the time, I was completely fascinated with English literature and history. While in Grade 6, I fell in love with Anne Boleyn, the tragic second wife of Henry VIII. For this reason I took the Grade 10 *“English History”* course while just starting Grade 9. When I encountered the chapter on the English Civil War, I also became fascinated with the tragic figure of Charles I. It is about this time I discovered Robert Browning’s *“Cavalier Tunes”* in the anthology. For some odd reason, I did not try setting *“Boot and Saddle”* to music for another four years. Nevertheless, it remained unfinished for decades. Since then, I’ve discovered that during the Civil War the owner of Castle Brancepeth was Sir Nicholas Cole. His support of the royalist side cost him £4,000 in fines in 1646. There was no siege. And there was no Gertrude. Sir Nicholas was married to Mary Liddell.



Above top: Charles I (1636); middle left: Anne Boleyn (mid-1530s); middle right: Robert Browning (mid-1830s); and bottom: the Castle Brancepeth in County Durham (1832).

