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ANNE:

Last night Peg spoke of wanting to see, again, Olivier's Henry V when it is shown at Greenwich Library a few days from now, and said you might like to see it, too. I thought at once of something I might have told you when you borrowed the four volumes of the Pageant of History last week. I might have told you about a special interest you might find in reading the pages about Henry V. But I didn't know it then. I learned about it only yesterday, in some new documents just received from England -- and discovered that Shakespeare knew the answer to a question that had puzzled me for years and years.

Why, I had asked myself, did Henry V -- immediately upon his return from victory at Agincourt -- restore to a young man all the vast lands that Henry's father had confiscated from the young man's grandfather; and make that young man, only 25 years old, Treasurer of Normandy; and knight him; and arrange his marriage to the sister of the Treasurer of England; and make his ~~own~~ sister Joanna a lady in waiting to the Queen when Katherine of Valois came to London a bit later?

A long question. A lot of questions. All unanswered until I learned, ~~YESTERDAY~~ yesterday, where that young man had been and what he had done.

Young Hammond Belknap had been one of the captains at Agincourt.

And in the great speech on St Crispin's day, in Henry V, Shakespeare had set down in magnificent words the answer to my puzzle:

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers.  
For he today that sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my brother."