

The Aerie



<http://areteem.org/blog/writing-for-fun-holidays-tis-the-seasonchristmas-yule-and-a-flurry-of-winterfestivalsandtraditionsstave1/>

DECEMBER A.S. LI (2016)

Cum An Iolair Calendar (Events in bold are local)

DECEMBER 2016

- 2 Shire Meeting: St. Thomas the Apostle 12251 Antioch Rd.-7pm
- 3 Winter Court—Three Rivers (St. Louis, MO)
- 9 Cook's Guild 7:30 at Marguerite's 7216 Cottonwood Shawnee, KS
- 10 Kris Kinder**—Forgotten Sea (Kansas City, MO)
- 16 Shire Meeting: St. Thomas the Apostle 12251 Antioch Rd.-7 pm (Holiday Party)

JANUARY 2017

- 6 Shire Meeting: St. Thomas the Apostle 12251 Antioch Rd.-7pm
- 7 Twelfth Night—Lonely Tower (Omaha, NE)
- 13 Cook's Guild 7:30 at Marguerite's 7216 Cottonwood Shawnee, KS
- 14 Winter Coronation— Forgotten Sea (Kansas City, MO)
- 20 Shire Meeting: St. Thomas the Apostle 12251 Antioch Rd.-7 pm

February 2017

- 3 Shire Meeting: St. Thomas the Apostle 12251 Antioch Rd.-7pm
- 4 **Clothier's Seminar**—Cum An Iolair (Omaha, NE)
- 10 Cook's Guild 7:30 at Marguerite's 7216 Cottonwood Shawnee, KS
- 17 Shire Meeting: St. Thomas the Apostle 12251 Antioch Rd.-7 pm
- 18 Winter War Maneuvers—Mag Mor (Lincoln, NE)
- 25 Chieftains—Three Rivers (St. Louis, MO)

Shire Birthday List

December

- 10 Zarra bint Chesed

January

- 1 Thomas the Black
- 19 Lucia di Giardino
- 24 Alisaundre Muir
- 27 Ki No Kotori
- 28 Thomas de Lepe

February

- 6 John Bowyer
- 12 Ysabel de la Oya
- 28 Vittoria (Megan)

Note from Chronicler

We need articles, book reviews and event reports for *The Aerie*. Please submit those by the 25th of each month to chronicler@shireofcai.org. It would be especially helpful if people wrote event reviews. It is so simple to write them since you go to events already!

Queen's Prize 2016

Seed Cakes

Part III

The Experiment

by Lady Ysabel de la Oya
(used with permission)

Part of this project was to attempt reproduce what a home baker could accomplish with a covered pot and coals. I ended up making three attempts, with varying degrees of success. During this time, I was also fine tuning the spice/sugar/honey levels so the cake recepies might vary from what was used in the final cakes.

To my shock and horror, I discovered my favorite local 12th to 16th century cookpot emporium had shut down on account of it only exciting in my fantasies. Instead I turned to terracotta planters. I had mixed results, but I'm mostly happy. After all, I cooked cake in fire!!

First Attempt

The first configuration I tried consisted of two saucers facing each other with a cake pain inside them, on the normal cooking rack of my charcoal grill. I soaked the terracotta in water for two hours. (11) Once my coals were ready and placed the rack on,

built the cooking rig, and covered the grill. After a very long feeling half an hour I checked on the cake and it was not even close to being cooked. I decided I didn't have enough heat. Using the same batter (which was pretty much raw) I relit the grill with new coal and reconfigured. I used a metal veggie grilling tray to prop up the baking rig right above the coals. I covered the grill once again and waited for another 25ish minutes. The lid had a slight crack, but was not a full fracture. After cooling a bit I turned the cake out and discovered it was very burnt on the bottom. After I cut off the burned bottom, I liked the taste and the texture wasn't horrible.

Second Attempt

For my second attempt I found these cool feet at the hardware store, and felt they would make a better base to raise my baking rig up than the vegetable griller. I decided to raise the cake a bit from the terracotta so I put a few metal nuts between the bottom of the cake pan and the terra cotta base. I also changed the top saucer out for a terracotta dome.

After soaking the terracotta and the coals were ready I built my rig and covered the grill.

After twenty minutes I checked on the cake and discovered that the bottom saucer cracked completely. I had used a different type of charcoal and it pretty much burned down to very small bits that fell through the grate, so I lost quite a bit of heat.

The cake technically passed the toothpick test, but the top still seemed uncooked. I carefully unassembled my cooking rig and placed the cake pan directly on the feet, and covered the top of the cake with the broken saucer and placed a few coals (also had to make additional coals) over it.

After another ten minutes checked on the cake again, it was better, but not great. Trying to avoid the mistake from last time I opted to pull it rather than let the bottom burn again. The resulting cake was... odd. It had the consistency of a fuggy brownie that had gone a bit wrong. Although I actually rather liked it. The charcoal I used was natural lump. It was horrible. A quarter it fell through grate of my chimney starter and another quarter fell through the grill grate.

Third Attempt

In my third (and final) bake I decided to ditch the grill, get charcoal briquets, and set fire to my driveway. I chose my driveway for the obvious fire retardant properties of concrete. It also felt more medieval to me. I also skipped soaking the terracotta. It didn't seem to help last time.

Combining the lessons learned from my previous two attempts, my baking rig consisted of the cake pan sitting on the terracotta feet with the dome over it. Before I dommed the cake I placed a two or three coals under the cake pan. I surrounded the dome with most of the coals, then placed a few on top.

I scooted some of the coals under the rim of the dome, but not under the cake pan. During cooking, the dome did crack, despite my attempts to warm the dome by placing it near the coals while they were being prepared. After twenty minutes I removed the dome and replaced with a saucer, removed the coals from under the cake, and placed them the saucer. I baked for another ten minutes. The resulting cake passed the toothpick test and looked good. After breaking into it the texture was pretty good (for a driveway cake!) and was only slightly burned on the bottom. I consider this my most successful bake and was the most fun!



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Henry VIII
Born June 28 1491
Reign April 21 1509-January 28 1547
Early Days & Catherine of Aragon

by Fiona nic Gormliatha
(used with permission)

Born at the Place of Placentia in Greenwich, London; Henry Tudor was the third child & second son of Henry VII & Elizabeth of York. At the age of two, Henry was appointed Constable of Dover Castle & Cinque Ports & three made Duke of York & inducted into the Order of the Bath. In May 1495 he was appointed to the Order of the Garter. To do credit to all of these titles, he was given a first-rate education from leading tutors, becoming fluent in Greek, Latin & French & some Italian.

As a second son not expected to become king not much is known of young Henry, but we do see him in November 1501 where he took part in the marriage of his brother, Prince Arthur to Catherine of Aragon, the youngest child of King Ferdinand II of Aragon & Queen Isabella I of Castile. One year later Arthur was dead of sweating sickness and all of duties fell on 10-year old Henry. After some debate he was made Prince of Wales in February of 1503, but as he was kept out of the public eyes & given few tasks to do as prince & heir he was to be largely untrained as king.

His father & Queen Isabella decided that the Spanish alliance should still go forward & betrothed the young widow Catherine to Henry in June of 1503, when the young prince was 11. But Isabella died a year later & relations with Ferdinand deteriorated so much that when Henry turned 14, of an age to marry Catherine, he rejected her suit, leaving her in a sort of political limbo. Ferdinand made her ambassador to England, so that she could stay in that country. The very devout Catherine was certain that it was God's will that she marry young Henry.

It seemed that she was right, for when Henry VII died April 25 1509, & the 17-year old Henry took the throne, he suddenly declared that as his father urged him to marry Catherine on his deathbed, it would be done. The 23-year old Catherine was wed to Henry VIII June 11, 1509 in a low-key ceremony & they were crowned June 24. It is thought that Henry wanted to avoid marrying Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian granddaughter (Catherine's niece!) & become embroiled in his war-like maneuverings on the Continent.

Henry was in his prime at the time, being 6 feet (or even 6' 4") trim & athletic, red haired and full of verve & impatience. He loved the hunt--often wearing out three horses while doing so, dancing, singing & gambling (with mixed results)--and spending the money his father had hoarded (Henry VII was one of the few kings to die solvent). He was in love with his Catherine, or at least in love with the idea of having her as his wife—and her dowry, which her father, King Ferdinand had promised to send (having sent less than half at his daughter's marriage to Arthur, now it was time for the rest). Five months later, the young king lost his formidable grandmother, Margaret Beaufort, the last of those who had raised & controlled him until he could take the throne.

Catherine made everyone in the kingdom happy by getting pregnant right away, as the proud Henry boasted that his wife had “indeed proved a maid” on the wedding night (he was to recant this years later as youthful boasting). But nine months later, she produced a stillborn girl, Henry consoled her with the

idea that they could & should try again. So in 1511 there was great rejoicing when Catherine gave birth to a son, who would have been Henry IX—until he died six weeks later. Two years later there was another pregnancy that ended with another miscarriage.

Henry decided to dabble in warfare with France, that dear old adversary, he wanted to recall the days of Henry V & give them a good trouncing. So in 1513 he left Catherine as regent won the Battle of the Spurs (actually more of a skirmish), which led to a truce, where Henry got the city of Tournai & the elderly king Louis XI got Henry's 18 year old sister Mary as wife (Mary was to later insist that since she had to marry Ol' Louis she could marry the man SHE wanted the second time around). Louis was dead a few months later (how surprising!) and Henry had to face the younger & more dangerous Francis I. Henry came home to find that the Scots had invaded England while he was away (even though James IV was married to his other sister, Margaret, 14 at the time)--and Catherine, acting quickly had called out the army & caught the Scots at Flodden. During which battle, James lost his life & Catherine sent his blood-soaked shirt to Henry as a trophy. One wonders if Henry was humiliated by his wife's success.

Francis decided that he wanted to invade Italy and when Henry's father-in-law Ferdinand January of 1516, Henry realized that the valued Spanish alliance was no more. One month later his Queen Catherine gave birth to a living child, a girl, Mary. Henry hoped that this would finally lead to a good crop of Tudor boys. Henry's right-hand chancellor, bishop Thomas Wolsey & made the Treaty of London with Francis in 1518 where he gave back Tournai & both agreed to universal peace. This lasted for about a year, when Maximilian died & Henry, along with Francis & Charles V of Spain became contenders for the post of Holy Roman Emperor. Charles, having more money & connections won & Henry decided to ally himself with Catherine's nephew.

Cracks started in the marriage, it was thought that at this time Henry consoled himself & proved himself not a fault in the fertility arena by getting his mistress Bessie Blount pregnant with his favored bastard son, Henry Fitzroy (French for King's son) born 1519. Henry also consoled himself by meeting with Francis on the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520; a big summit where both England & France showed off their money, weapons & jousting abilities. In spite of this effort, the kings parted enemies & hostilities resumed. It was thought that at this time, he met a fascinating young woman, sister to his other mistress, Mary Boleyn, the dark-haired Anne. About the same time his Queen went into menopause, there would be no more children by her & no more hope for a son.

Henry linked with Charles V & sent the Duke of Suffolk to attack Paris while Charles headed to Italy to see if he could bag Francis. The weather in France was awful & Suffolk's army became a rabble, while Charles did indeed capture Francis in Italy. Henry was broke & was forced to sign a humiliating treaty with France in August of 1525. There was peace for a while & there was even talk of marrying his 11 year-old Mary to Francis' son (also Francis!), but by 1529 Francis had managed to charm Charles into release & a treaty that would have Henry facing the might of both France & Spain! At about 1527 Henry started declaring that his marriage to his brother's widow had cursed his hopes of succession & that said marriage was null & void. Catherine disagreed, and knowing that Henry need to send to the

pope for an annulment sent word to her nephew Charles V—then camped outside of Rome to make sure the pope said no. He did, and the angry Henry banished Catherine from the court, gave her a pension of 3000 pounds a year & the title of Princess of Wales—the title she had been given upon her marriage to poor Arthur. The pope excommunicated Henry but he had done the same to Charles V, Francis I & even James VI & they had ignored it. Henry was still being held at arm's length by Anne (for five years!) but found time to take her to France in 1533, she conceived on this trip & to make the child legitimate Henry had Thomas Cramer, the Archbishop of Canterbury annul his marriage to Catherine, & had parliament enact the Restraint of Appeals—which prevented anyone from going over the king's head to the pope to protest. Then he married Anne. There would be division, birth & deaths arising from this and beheadings.

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