

Katheryn Parr



Katheryn Parr was the sixth wife of Henry VIII. Both Catherine Parr and Anna of Kleves survived the King - Catherine died the year following Henry's death in King Edward VI's reign and Anna of Kleves.

Katheryn Parr was an English woman and the daughter of Thomas Parr of Kendal, a county squire who had distinguished himself in the service of both King Henry VII of England and his son, King Henry VIII.

At the age of fifteen, Catherine married Sir Edward Borough, but he died shortly afterwards in 1529 and Catherine became a widow. Her second husband, Sir John Neville, Lord Latimer was a rich landowner in Yorkshire and had an estate there called Snape Hall. Lord Latimer died in 1542, leaving Catherine as a widow for the second time, and without any children.

By this time Catherine was in love with Thomas Seymour (brother of Jane Seymour) Henry VIII himself took a liking to Catherine as well and she married Henry instead on July 12, 1543 in Hampton Court Palace.

As queen consort, Catherine managed to bring Henry's daughters Elizabeth and Mary back to court. For Elizabeth in particular, Catherine was a much-needed mother figure and friend, and Elizabeth frequently acknowledged Catherine as her foremost educational mentor.

Catherine was a good wife to Henry, but her strong will and outspoken nature led her to debate topics of religion a little too openly for the court's taste, and Henry's advisors persuaded him that Catherine was attempting to subvert his religious authority. As a result, in 1546 Catherine found an arrest warrant for her signed by Henry. Catherine managed to comfort the King by saying that she only argued about religion to take his mind off his bad leg, leading Henry to spare her life.

Questions

1. Do you think Katheryn Parr wanted to marry Henry VIII? Explain your opinion using the text.
2. Why was she seen as a mother figure?
3. Why was there a warrant for her arrest?
4. How do you think Katheryn felt after comforting the King?
5. Was she a well- educated woman? Explain why.