**SHORT HISTORY OF SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII**

Henry VIII is not only known as a king of England and a representative of Tudor monarchy, but he was known for being married to six wives. He inherited the throne of his father Henry VII. After his brother Arthur died of illness, he became the king and also married his wife Catherine of Aragon, a Spanish princess. As Henry did not have a male heir from this marriage he decided to divorce Catherine. The other reason was that he fell in love with another woman Anne Boleyn. But Pope did not want to annul the marriage and Henry founded a new church and with the Act of Supremacy he became the head of English church. Catherine was the mother of Mary Tudor known as Bloody Mary by her Protestant opponents.

Henry got married to Anne Boleyn, but before he had been interested in her sister Mary. Anne also could not give him a male heir, but she is the mother of Queen Elizabeth I. So he did not want to be in this marriage any more and decided to find another wife. He accused her of cheating on him, participating in conspiracy against him and decided to send her to the Tower of London and beheaded her. Today there are many stories about her ghost seen haunting the castle.

There is the third wife Jane Seymour, the only one he really loved and the only one buried in their family grave. Before they got married she was lady-in waiting to Catherine of Aragon, when he noticed her. She gave him the son he wanted so much. This son was later the King of England, Edvard VI. After her death Henry was devastated and waited for three years to get married again.

This time his bride was Anne of Cleves, a German princess. Their marriage was annulled and she was never crowned queen. The reason was that he did not find her attractive as her portrait. Today she is remembered as the one he loved the least. It might be that he still could not forget the modest Jane Seymour. As they did not as a husband and wife divorce was not a problem.

His next wife was much younger than him. Catherine Howard was a teenager and he was a man of 50. He enjoyed her youth and energy and gave her many gifts. But she had secrets in her past and when Henry found out about it he passed a new law. She ended up the same way as Anne Boleyn. She was beheaded at the Tower of London because of adultery.

The last wife shares the same name with two previous wives. Catherine Parr is the only one who survived Henry. She was not only a good stepmother to his children but a very educated woman and a published author. Before Henry she had been married twice. She lived with Henry as a Queen for three and a half years.