



Admin Tim

May 29, 2015 - 11:59 pm

Right. Welcome Claire (who is sitting directly opposite me) to the live chat. Without any further delay, please feel free to chat away with Claire Ridgway.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:00 am

Thank you for having me lol!



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:01 am

Claire, what was it that attracted you attention to Anne B..



Admin Tim

May 30, 2015 - 12:01 am

Claire - what is your favourite primary source out of all the mountain of books around you right now?



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:01 am

Long story, Boleyn. I'd been interested in Henry & his 6 wives since primary school but it was a dream I had that sparked off my research.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:02 am

I dreamed about Anne's execution and not being able to stop it, knowing she was innocent. A horrid dream but a wonderful outcome as it made me start researching.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:02 am

And made me created The AB Files.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:02 am

create



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:03 am

Just apologising in advance if any of the question I ask were covered in this week's video, I am in the middle of a monster essay and haven't had time to watch it yet



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:03 am

Out of the books that are near my desk now I'd say The Lisle Letters.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:03 am

I think everyone starts getting an interest in History via Henry and his turbulent love life.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:03 am

I also love Hall's Chronicle, such detailed accounts of everything.



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:04 am

According to Chapuys, Anne told Cromwell that she'd would have his head. This is always brought up as one of the reasons 'evil' Cromwell decided to get rid of her. However, this argument was in June of

'35. He took his sweet time, no?



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:04 am

Don't worry Olga!



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:04 am

I love all parts of history, but I guess my favourite era is the Tudor/Stuart era.. as they were a very stormy lot



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:05 am

I wasn't able to catch your entire talk on Thomas Cromwell and the fall of Anne Boleyn, so maybe you covered this already - but what do you think of the way Anne is portrayed in Wolf Hall? In the series to me, she seems to be very insecure which makes her come off as mean.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:05 am

@sharonc, Chapuys was rather skeptical of what Cromwell said about Anne's threat and pondered whether Cromwell actually made it up. Cromwell did say that he wasn't worried about it at all.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:05 am

I think it was a row that blew over but perhaps the start of a split.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:05 am

I got a bit preoccupied with the Chapuys being forced to acknowledge Anne's incident when I was reading about it last week. I have so often seen historians use this as evidence that Henry could not have been planning anything against Anne. But I honestly can't see why we can't assume he was being duplicitous.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:06 am

@GailTudor, I didn't like the books or the series as I found all of the characters very 2D and flat, rather like caricatures.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:06 am

If you think about it the Stuarts, well the Scottish people more than anything had fought for years and years, to be free from English rule, only for them to actually end up conquering England..



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:06 am

I thought Claire Foy did a great job with the execution scene but otherwise she drove me up the wall with the whole "Cremuel" thing.



Teri

May 30, 2015 - 12:07 am

@olgah: Henry couldn't get rid of Anne until she had been acknowledged as his legitimate Queen i.e. admit that he was wrong.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:07 am

I also thought that there was no chemistry between H and A, yet we know that they were passionate

about each other.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:08 am

@olga, I think that Henry did want Chapuys and the Emperor to acknowledge Anne as his wife to get one over on them. I think he enjoyed playing people off against each other.



Teri

May 30, 2015 - 12:09 am

@Claire Ridgway: Exactly



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:09 am

I think he played everyone.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:09 am

@Boleyn, hmmm, tough one. I haven't studied past Elizabeth I for over 20 years.



Admin Tim

May 30, 2015 - 12:09 am

The sport of kings.



Teri

May 30, 2015 - 12:09 am

@sharonc: He certainly did@



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:09 am

Yes, I completely agree. Which is why I can't buy that this is evidence he was still madly in love with her.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:10 am

Besides he made her stand trial when he's ordered the executioner already



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:10 am

@Boleyn, obviously Elizabeth's reign is known as the Golden Age but it had its problems and obviously the Gunpowder Plot was a result of the religious problems in Elizabeth's reign.



Hunter S. Jones

May 30, 2015 - 12:10 am

Tudor theatrics



Teri

May 30, 2015 - 12:10 am

@olgah: That's the elephant in the room!



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:11 am

@Olga, I'm with Eric Ives on a lot of things but I don't believe that Henry and Anne were happy until April 1536 and then Henry was led to believe she betrayed him.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:11 am

I think there's a lot of evidence that the relationship had problems for some time.



Admin Tim

May 30, 2015 - 12:11 am

The trial had to take place to make the execution legal and to legitimise things. He couldn't have just "done away with her in the night".



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:11 am

Was the trial for the people, even though it wasn't much of one



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:11 am

@Hunter, yes, theatrics, power play... horrible stuff.



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:12 am

Oh yes Tim that was my thought too!



lauried515

May 30, 2015 - 12:12 am

Yes for sure Claire, "problems" with their relationship had certainly built up in Henry's mind for awhile



Teri

May 30, 2015 - 12:12 am

@Claire Ridgway: Whether Henry believed the accusations or not, it was a good excuse to get rid of Anne. Imo Anne couldn't have been harmed, if it wasn't his wish.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:12 am

Anne and Henry's relationship was a very tempestuous one. They were without a doubt a very dangerous combination, and yet between them though they didn't know it at the time they produced a child who completely changed the face of England for ever..



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:12 am

@GailTudor, yes, the trial wasn't about justice at all. The order of the trials had been carefully thought out. Smeaton had confessed, the men were found guilty so Anne had to be guilty and therefore George had to be guilty.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:13 am

I think so too Claire. What do you think of Schofield's theory that Henry made his comments about being tricked into the marriage before Anne had her miscarriage? It's quite tricky because we can't be sure she had not had the miscarriage that morning just because Chapuys didn't report it



Hunter S. Jones

May 30, 2015 - 12:13 am

If we look at them from our angle, Henry was the classic borderline narcissistic personality. Once he believed Anne opposed him, he was done with her.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:13 am

I say this quite often What Henry started Elizabeth finished and by thunder she did it in style



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:13 am

I do think Chapuys was right, that Anne miscarried of her saviour in Jan 1536. If she had had the boy

everything would have been good I think.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:14 am

@lauried515, yes, I think Henry had begun to see his marriage as cursed. I think the big problem was that their r'ship was based on love and therefore any flirtation of Henry's was a real threat. Anne couldn't help but be jealous and worry about things but Henry expected her just cope with it.



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:14 am

For Chapuys to say that, there must have been enough rumblings around court to justify that statement.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:15 am

@olga, hmmm, I'm not sure. I think Schofield is very perceptive and his book is brilliant, I definitely go with his idea of Cromwell being Henry's servant, rather than the instigator, but I'm not sure about the timing of that comment. Will have to dig into that some more. Interesting. What do you think?



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:18 am

Chapuys IMO, would say anything that would discredit, Anne in anyway. His sole ambition in life was to see that Mary was once again seen as the true heir to the English throne. His refusal to accept Anne as Queen even after K.O.A death was proof that he didn't give 2 straws about Anne or the new baby



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:18 am

@Boleyn, it's a shame that Henry was so obsessed with having a son but then kings were back then. Women weren't seen as rulers even though Catherine of Aragon's mother was a strong ruler in Spain.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:19 am

I would be more inclined to think that the miscarriage hadn't been announced yet and Chapuys simply had not heard about it Claire. The timing seems to indicate that Henry had just learned about the miscarriage, and that was his reaction. But it is very odd, especially for one of Chapuys spies to happen upon Henry just at that time



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:20 am

Ah yes the great Isabella, she certainly had her work cut out that for sure. The thing is Claire did she have any right to the castillian throne in the first place



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:20 am

@GailTudor, yes, although there are reports of H and A being "merry", there's the weird account given by Gontier in Feb 1535 of Anne commenting on how she needed "some remedy", i.e. for the negotiations to go well with France re Elizabeth's marriage prospects, otherwise she'd be "ruined and lost". Anne obviously felt worried and insecure.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:21 am

@olga, I'd agree with you.



lauried515

May 30, 2015 - 12:21 am

Claire I like your point about Cromwell being more of Henry's servant, rather than the instigator of

everything with Anne, Because he was originally "team Boleyn" at the beginning, right?



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:21 am

I agree with you too, Olga.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:22 am

@lauried515, yes, Chapuys talks of Cromwell as being seen as Anne's right hand so they definitely were seen as working together at the start. I believe that Cromwell was just following orders.



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:22 am

I think Cromwell was always Henry's man.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:22 am

Her brother had a daughter Joanna, and he named her as his heir . In fact Joanna ruled for approx 2 years, before Isabella managed to defeat her, and she was shut away in a nunnery.. but right up until she died she signed her name as Joanna the Queen



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:23 am

@Boleyn, I'll have to ask my children about the Spanish view on that as they study Spanish history, it would be interesting to see their take on her claim.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:23 am

@sharonc, oh definitely, Henry's man first and foremost.



lauried515

May 30, 2015 - 12:23 am

Yes he was "Henry's man" until Henry decided to get rid of him a few years later!



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:24 am

@Boleyn, yes, poor Juana is another of those victims of history. Julia Fox's book is brilliant on Catherine and Juana.



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:24 am

Yes, well that's how Henry was. He was with you, until he wasn't.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:24 am

As strange as this will sound, I think that Cromwell and Henry had an almost sybiotic relationship.. Henry needed Cromwell as much as Cromwell needed Henry..



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:24 am

Yes I think so too Sharon. Claire I don't remember that comment from Chapuys, I will have to check it out. Schofield (who I read last week again, which is why all his theories are so fresh!) thinks they weren't actually close at all



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:24 am

@lauried515, yes, just like More and Wolsey. It's chilling how Henry could just cut people he'd once loved off like that.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:25 am

Oh yes Boleyn, do read Sister Queens by Julia Fox. It's outstanding.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:25 am

Yeah I have it Olga on ebook, haven't had a lot of time to read it yet though



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:26 am

Too busy writing, I now



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:26 am

know



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:26 am

@olga, I can find you the reference as I spoke about it in my talk. It was in June 1535 when Chapuys was reporting Anne's threat re wanting to see Cromwell's head off his shoulders. He was skeptical because he was hearing from others that Cromwell was considered A's right hand.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:26 am

Aha, thanks I have that bookmarked. I'll have a look.



Hunter S. Jones

May 30, 2015 - 12:27 am

Henry's court was like a pit of blind vipers



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:27 am

Amy Licence said of Henry VIII's treatment of More, Catherine of Aragon, Anne, Cath H, Cromwell etc. "the greater the love he had felt for them, the greater the suffering he needed to inflict upon them".



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:27 am

I swear I am a ditz I just read that letter a few days ago LOL



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:28 am

They were many cutthroats it seems.



lauried515

May 30, 2015 - 12:28 am

Yes I like that quote Claire



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:28 am

That's a rather eerie quote isn't it?



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:28 am

@Hunter, yes, I've been reading about all the pageantry at his court and wishing I could time travel

back to see it, but then I might get into trouble so perhaps not!



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:28 am

@olga, no, you're just busy!



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:28 am

@hunter I always view Henry's court as a cage full of ravenous lions, ready to devour all those who can't or won't fight back



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:29 am

@sharonc, yes, lots of people doing what they thought they needed to do to survive I suppose.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:29 am

I'm not sure Chapuys had the right of it though.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:29 am

@Hunter, by the way, congratulations on the release of your book! (I am saying it now before I forget for three months)



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:30 am

@claire why did Anne have to die..



Hunter S. Jones

May 30, 2015 - 12:30 am

We can learn a lot by seeing who did survive, can't we? @Olga agree re Chapuys TYVM!



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:30 am

@olga, no, I think Cromwell and Anne had worked together and they had shared interests (poor relief, reform etc.) but he was the King's man through and through.



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:31 am

@Hunter S. Jones the best example of that is Thomas Howard



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:31 am

I will always admire Thomas Howard for accidentally outliving Henry



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:31 am

@Boleyn, lots of reasons. She would still have been powerful as Marquis of Pembroke, she may have caused him trouble like C of A had, he may have been seen as weak if he'd just annulled the marriage as it may have been taken as proof that his first marriage was valid...



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:31 am

I don't believe it was Henry sole intention to kill Anne, I think he wanted her disgraced and dishonoured and banished to a convent, what few there were left.



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:31 am

And Elizabeth what a survivor



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:32 am

@olgah that man was born under a lucky star



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:32 am

@gail Elizabeth was brilliant...



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:32 am

.... it may have had an impact on the supremacy, Henry needed to look good by making Anne look bad etc. Lots of reasons but I'm not entirely sure what Henry's real reasons were.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:33 am

Claire, that's the main problem I think. Everyone thinks Anne and Cromwell had conflicting interests. I do think Skip's sermon was directed at Cromwell, but others as well. The reference to Solomon's foreign wives seems to be a direct attack on Jane Seymour'



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:33 am

I have my own theory concerning why K.H had to die, but I haven't got anything to back it up



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:33 am

@Boleyn, I don't think Cromwell planned on killing Anne, his meetings with Sampson, a canon lawyer, suggest that he was looking for ways of getting the marriage annulled, I think it came about because of Henry.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:33 am

@Gail I am just glad someone managed to escape him, even if it was Norfolk



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:34 am

Then why order the executioner before the trials. Sorry I think he figured Anne would not go quietly, and he didn't want another long, dragged out annulment. And I do think his great love turned to great hate.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:34 am

Trying to blacken Anne's name etc, didn't work though.. In fact Henry did was make her all the more infamous



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:34 am

@olga, I agree, Cromwell was definitely Haman in that sermon but it was also aimed at people like the Seymours who Anne saw as filling the King's head with ideas.



lauried515

May 30, 2015 - 12:35 am

What's interesting though is that we talk about all of the people who Henry had executed, but in reality, Mary I executed more, it was just that Henry executed more "high profile" people who we know of



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:35 am

@sharonc, yes, I think H was set on Anne being got rid of completely.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:35 am

Many people when asked to name one of Henry's wives, they generally say Anne B



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:35 am

@Boleyn, I think it did work in the short-term, the Boleyn name was definitely blackened by it all.



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:36 am

Yes, he did a thorough job



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:36 am

@lauried515 But Mary did it out of true if misplaced belief that they were heretics, whereas Henry just turned on people he used to love



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:36 am

@Laurie, actually Henry executed far more people. More than 200 were executed after the Pilgrimage of Grace alone. It's just that Mary had such a short reign it seems there was more bloodshed.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:36 am

@lauried515, and Henry's victims were more "personal" in that he'd once loved them. I think Cranmer was Mary's revenge though.



lauried515

May 30, 2015 - 12:37 am

Yes very good point Claire



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:37 am

Oh yes poor Cranmer I agree Claire



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:37 am

How old do you think Anne was when she was executed Claire



Admin Tim

May 30, 2015 - 12:37 am

Google ranking in terms of number of mentions - Elizabeth I, Henry VIII, James I, Mary I, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Catherine of Aragon, Anne of Clevers, Catherine Howard and in last place Catherine Parr



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:37 am

@Boleyn, I tend to go with a 1501 birthdate so I'd say 34/35.



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:37 am

Yes. What Mary did to Cranmer was pure revenge.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:38 am

@sharonc, yes, it was definitely personal. That poor man.



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:38 am

Tim, Catherine Parr needs a good PR person!



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:38 am

@Tim poor Cat Parr!



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:39 am

I think we'd better have a Cat Parr special soon. Anyone?



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:39 am

Catherine Parr is a fascinating lady. I think Anne of Cleves gets a raw deal too, there's a pragmatic woman!



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:40 am

Totally Sharon, it wouldn't have matter if he had gone mitre in hand to the pope got his blessing and pardon and become the devoutist of all roman Catholics. Cramner was doomed from the moment he declared Mary a *****



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:40 am

I'm sure we could arrange to have a Catherine Parr section in the mag or a talk on her.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:40 am

I'm sure we could arrange to have a Catherine Parr section in the mag or a talk on her.



lauried515

May 30, 2015 - 12:40 am

Can't wait!



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:40 am

Well I have an idea about Catherine Parr I'd like to explore Claire so let me know.



Hunter S. Jones

May 30, 2015 - 12:40 am

That sounds great, Claire!



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:40 am

@Olga, ooh, sounds great, thank you!



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:41 am

Those two get left by the wayside. Both great ladies. I'd love to see articles on the two of them.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:41 am

What do you all think about Anne's fall and who was responsible?



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:41 am

I don't think AOC was too badly off though, it was really in Edward's reign that she suffered more, because Edward or should I say his ministers, felt tha they shouldn't be paying her pension



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:41 am

I agree Sharon!- 12:41 am

I agree Sharon!



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:42 am

Henry was responsible for Anne's fall.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:42 am

OK, I'll add Anne of C and Catherine Parr to my list for future specials.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:43 am

I would say Henry and Cromwell. they brewed up the charges against Anne between then.. I think Henry's feelings for Anne changed from the moment of Elizabeth birth.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:44 am

Claire I think that Anne's miscarriage felt like a blow directly from God to Henry. I think he felt the marriage was cursed. He discussed it with Cromwell. I think Cromwell was investigating a divorce. I think he didn't stick his neck out for Anne because she was more trouble than she was worth. I don't think for a minute he thought she would be executed though.



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:44 am

Depends on how you look at it Boleyn. She was foreign princess come to marry a king. She was set aside by the king. That had to hurt.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:44 am

I think Elizabeth's birth was a disappointment but it also showed that Anne could get pregnant and carry a baby full term, I think the problems started as Henry started having flirtations.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:45 am

Yeah there was no doubt she must have felt bitterly humiliated, but if she had returned hom, one has to ask what would have become of her in her Brothers, that's supposing he would even have her bac



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:45 am

@olga, yes, I think that tipped Henry over the edge. I think he then saw Jane S with new eyes, she went from flirtation to a prospective wife.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:45 am

And you know what else, I don't think we should assume that Anne wouldn't have gone quietly. I think

we put too much emphasis on her temper. I think Anne may have been more pragmatic than Katherine was, considering Anne had lived through what had happened to Katherine.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:46 am

@Claire, yes I fully agree. I don't think he was considering marrying Jane before then, despite the rumours Henry was after a new wife.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:46 am

@olga, yes, I agree, I think Anne would have learned from what happened to Catherine and Mary, I don't think she would have wanted Elizabeth to suffer at Henry's hands.



lauried515

May 30, 2015 - 12:47 am

Yes, and to add to it, in those days a miscarriage was actually considered a real curse, I think that really got in Henry's mind too



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:47 am

@Claire exactly! I think she would have wanted to protect Elizabeth.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:48 am

Again this is something I've said a few times about Anne.. She sacrificed her own life so that Elizabeth wouldn't suffer the way Mary had when Katherine refused to back down



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:48 am

I find Henry's letters to his ambassadors in April 1536 interesting, he says "For as much as there is great likelihood and appearance that God will send unto Us heirs male to succeed Us" and some historians have pondered whether he was actually referring to his future with Jane. He seemed to have ruled out having sons by Anne.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:49 am

@Laurie Henry had convinced himself, by that point, that not having a male child was evidence of a cursed marriage



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:49 am

Ives believes it shows that he was still committed to the marriage, but other evidence suggests that he was not and had already decided to get rid of Anne.



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:49 am

He had already said he would have no sons. Then he writes that. He was talking about a future wife.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:50 am

Anne's downfall was rapid, and if I have remembered it rightly just a few weeks before, Anne was mentioning about the future and the hope that some would be in it.



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:50 am

no sons by Anne I meant



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:50 am

Ah that's interesting Claire, there's no mention of his 'beloved wife' there is there? It's like in his will where he mentioned any children he had with a wife besides Catherine Parr!



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:50 am

@olga and laurie, I agree, Henry definitely saw sons as proof of God's blessing and miscarriages/stillbirths as evidence of God seeing something wrong with the parents.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:50 am

@Sharon good point!



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:51 am

Claire, I dont think Henry ever saw himself at ever being at fault at all in anythings



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:51 am

@olga, I can't remember which letter had the words "our most dear and most entirely beloved wife the Queen" and I can't remember whether it's Schofield or Derek Wilson who ponders whether that even meant Jane because Henry had moved on to J in his head.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:51 am

Claire what evidence points to Henry being dissatisfied with the marriage prior to 1536?



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:52 am

I'll check that out Claire, I have both of the book here



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:52 am

@Boleyn, I think Henry felt that as God's anointed sovereign he was God's representative, a bit of a God complex. The fault had to be with the women.



Hunter S. Jones

May 30, 2015 - 12:52 am

Spot on @Claire



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:52 am

@olga, hang on, I'll check my notes.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:53 am

I believe that he always drunk a toast to bessie blount, even though poor Fitzroy had died



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:53 am

@olga, Anne's words to Gontier about her worry at being ruined and lost and "not at her ease on account of the doubts and suspicions of the King" in Feb 1535 is one.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:54 am

Dec 1534 Chapuys wrote of the King being angry with Anne at times, although he also put it down to

lovers' quarrels.



lauried515

May 30, 2015 - 12:55 am

Claire, do you think his jousting accident really had anything to do with his "change of mind" about her?



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:55 am

@Claire The one from 1535 is pretty ominous isn't it? I really don't think that Henry was madly in love with Anne up until the rumours came about,



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:55 am

Me neither



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:55 am

Derek Wilson also points out that in Oct 1534 members of the King's council, incl. Norfolk, proposed to the King that he should seek a rapprochement with the Pope, which he could not do without setting A aside. Wilson points out hat Norfolk "could not have been so presumptuous if he knew Henry's feelings for his wife were as strong as ever."



Admin Tim

May 30, 2015 - 12:56 am

Five minutes to go ... start thinking of your last questions for Claire and get them in now



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:56 am

I always feel that Henry more or less bullied Anne into loving hhim



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:56 am

Remember he also was thinking of divorce from Catherine before Anne even entered the picture. Having a son seemed to consume him as he got older, so as time went on with no sons from Anne he got more short tempered with her perhaps?



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:56 am

No, I think he felt let down by Anne. He'd fought so hard to have her, he'd turned his world upside down for her and yet she hadn't given him a son.



Hunter S. Jones

May 30, 2015 - 12:56 am

Curious about the jousting incident. Didn't almost everyone have a jousting accident? Why does everyone believe Henry is the only one who suffered a brain injury?



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:57 am

Claire what do you think of De Carles account?



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 12:57 am

Claire what do you think of De Carles account?



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 12:57 am

Good question Hunter.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:57 am

@GailTudor, yes, he'd had a few jousting accidents and had health problems so the importance of securing the throne must have weighed heavily on him.



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 12:57 am

After Elizabeth's birth he also perhaps felt betrayed by Anne as well. She had promised to give him a son and she hadn't she had lied to him etc..



Admin Tim

May 30, 2015 - 12:57 am

@hunter - sounds like an idea for another novel?



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:58 am

@Hunter, I don't believe he suffered a brain injury. William Compton had a very serious accident, as did Francis Bryan, and they recovered.



Hunter S. Jones

May 30, 2015 - 12:58 am

ok



Admin Tim

May 30, 2015 - 12:58 am

:-)



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:59 am

@olga, I take de Carles' account with a bit of a pinch of salt as he must have been basing his poem on information he was being fed. But his poem is beautiful and you can see his admiration for Anne at her trial and execution.



Hunter S. Jones

May 30, 2015 - 12:59 am

Thank you Claire. Or did they? Maybe everyone was addled



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 12:59 am

I think his accidents caused a lot of pain and pain can affect your personality



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 12:59 am

@Hunter, yes, that would explain a lot!



Hunter S. Jones

May 30, 2015 - 1:00 am

It would, you are right



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 1:00 am

And Henry just liked to blame everyone else for his problems



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 1:00 am

Not always Gail, it can at times frustrate you, which seems like anger.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 1:00 am

@GailTudor, yes, his leg problems must have caused a lot of pain and also humiliation because of the smell and the fact that it showed that he was mortal, human and had his weaknesses.



Admin Tim

May 30, 2015 - 1:00 am

I'd like to announce this evening's prize winner GailTudor! You've won a copy of "The Fall of Anne Boleyn" by Claire. If we don't have your address, could you email it to info@tudorsociety.com at some point please. Congratulations!



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 1:01 am

That is true also, I think he had a lot of frustration, about not having a son after all those years.



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 1:01 am

I'm not the only one who doesn't think the joust had anything to do with Henry's later behavior. Maybe his behavior became erratic because he killed his beloved wife.



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 1:01 am

Wow thanks that is wonderful



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 1:01 am

he must have been extremely self concious about how he must have looked and smelled to visiting dignities etc..



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 1:01 am

Congrats Gail



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 1:02 am

It's Dr Ortiz who wrote of Henry going without speaking for 2 hours and he wasn;t even in the country, those who were there said that it wasn't serious, although that could have been the official line to downplay it.



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 1:02 am

Well done Gail, that book is a must-have!



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 1:02 am

I think he put so much pressure on himself to have that son it made him crazy



Hunter S. Jones

May 30, 2015 - 1:02 am

This has been a fantastic chat! Thanks so much. Have a fun weekend, everyone! Congrats Gail & many thanks Claire & Tim. Cheers!



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 1:02 am

Congrats @Gail!



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 1:02 am

Yes thanks very informative!



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 1:02 am

Thanks everyone for bearing with me, I wasn't sure I'd make any sense after this week!



lauried515

May 30, 2015 - 1:02 am

Yes many thanks Claire and Tim!!



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 1:03 am

Hope you all have a wonderful weekend! xx



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 1:03 am

Thanks Claire. I hope you will come back so we can chat again...LOL



Boleyn

May 30, 2015 - 1:03 am

Thank you Claire Xx



GailTudor

May 30, 2015 - 1:03 am

goodbye all have a great weekend



lauried515

May 30, 2015 - 1:03 am

Thanks everyone!



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 1:03 am

@sharonc, I'll try



olgah

May 30, 2015 - 1:03 am

@Claire it's been a great chat Claire, thanks! Now I'm going to hit the books again, speak to you all soon!



sharonc

May 30, 2015 - 1:03 am

Good night everyone.



Claire Ridgway

May 30, 2015 - 1:04 am

I'm glad you've enjoyed it. Good night everyone.

