

The Wittenberg Times

1526-1550



All the news that's fit to print with some editorializing by Martin Luther
Editor: Hank Bitten

1540 July 9 - Henry VIII's Marriage to Anne of Cleves Suddenly Annulled!

King Henry VIII and his new queen, Anne of Flanders, was abruptly ended today by a royal decree of divorce on the grounds of infidelity. It was reported that the king commented to Thomas Cromwell on his wedding day that, 'My Lord, if it were not to satisfy the world, and My Realm, I would not do that I must do this day for none earthly thing.'

The agreement terms are generous for Queen Anne regarding income and the gift of Hever Castle in Kent and Richmond Palace.

Henry and Anne were married on the Festival of the Epiphany, January 6 earlier this year. Henry has upset every woman in England with his statement that he is unable to perform his duties as a husband because of his wife's appearance. Anne's father was very wealthy and opposed Emperor Charles V. Anne's brother, William, inherited his father's wealth and titles. He is a Lutheran.

Henry met Anne in Rochester on New Year's Day while she was traveling to Dover. Henry needed the support of the Germans and was formally introduced to Anne in public on January 3. They were married three days later.



Queen Anne



Hever Castle, Kent, England

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1540 *Sher Shah Becomes Emperor of Delhi*

After his defeat of the Bengal army at the battles of Chausa and Kannauj in northern India, Sher Shah (Farid Khan) has assumed the title of emperor. Emperor Shah has addressed the people with his new policies of ending corruption, tolerating different religious faiths, building roads, and giving people access to clean water. Emperor Shah is 54 years old.

Emperor Shah is said to be a deeply spiritual man. Ignatius Loyola announced that Jesuits in Goa were going to Delhi to meet with the new emperor. Father Loyola said that the emperor might convert to the Christian faith. The possibilities of a Christian ruler in Asia, the land of the three wise men, would be of monumental importance in world history.

It has been 15 years since the Mongols dominated the India subcontinent and 40 years since the Portuguese have been trading here. The population of India is 125 million people with many Hindus being converted to Islam by force. The Portuguese are also actively promoting Christianity in this part of the world.

The rise to power of Sher Shah is significant in how the new Mughal empire will govern the largest empire in the world with their military arsenal of gunpowder and canons. India is a densely populated area and the challenge for one ruler to provide water, food, and protection is significant.