

Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots



Elizabeth I (1533 – 1603) became Queen of England in 1558 after her sister Mary died.

She was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn and had had a troubled childhood. Her mother had been executed when she was three years old and her father had married four more times. The only constant person in her life was her nanny, Kat Ashley.

Her father had separated the church from Rome and Elizabeth was a Protestant.

When Elizabeth's sister Mary, a Catholic, came to the throne in 1553 she made England Catholic again and Elizabeth was put into the Tower of London so that she could not lead a Protestant rebellion against Mary and take her place on the throne.

When Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558 she made England Protestant. Consequently she had many Catholic enemies who wanted to see her replaced by Mary Queen of Scots. In 1558 Mary Queen of Scots, granddaughter of Henry VIII's elder sister Margaret, had challenged Elizabeth for the throne of England, but had failed. The Catholics believed that because Elizabeth had been declared illegitimate in 1536, Mary's challenge to the throne was stronger than Elizabeth's.



Mary Queen of Scots (1542 – 1587) was the daughter of James V of Scotland and Mary of Guise. She became Queen of Scotland when she was six days old after her father died at the Battle of Solway Moss.

A marriage was arranged between Mary and Edward, only son of Henry VIII but was broken when the Scots decided they preferred an alliance with France. Mary spent a happy childhood in France and in 1558 married Francis, heir to the French throne. They became king and queen of France in 1559.

Sadly, Francis died in 1560 and Mary, not wanting to stay in France, returned to Scotland. During Mary's absence, Scotland had become a Protestant country. The Protestants did not want Mary, a Catholic and their official queen, to have any influence.

In 1565 Mary married her cousin and heir to the English throne, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley. The marriage was not a happy one. Darnley was jealous of Mary's close friendship with her secretary, David Rizzio and in March 1566 had him murdered in front of Mary who was six months pregnant with the future James I. Darnley made many enemies among the Scottish nobles and in 1567 his house was blown up. Darnley's body was found inside, he had been strangled.

Three months later Mary married the chief suspect, the Earl of Bothwell. The people of Scotland were outraged and turned against her. She was removed from the throne and fled to England. She appealed to Elizabeth for help and support, but Elizabeth, suspicious that she was going to raise Catholic support and take the throne of England, kept Mary a virtual prisoner for the next eighteen years.

In 1586 letters sent to Mary by a Catholic called Thomas Babington, were found. The letters revealed a plot to kill Elizabeth and replace her with Mary. Elizabeth had no choice but to sign Mary's death warrant. Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle on February 8th 1587.

BRITAIN: Mary, Queen of Scots: The cast of characters

By Susan Spano

12:02 PM PST, February 27, 2009

Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-1587): daughter of James V of Scotland and Mary of Guise; ruled Scotland from 1561 to 1568.

James Hepburn, 4th Earl of Bothwell (circa 1534-1578): Mary's third husband and one of Scotland's greatest enigmas; he died insane and in chains in Denmark.

Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley (1545-1567): Mary's disastrous choice for a second husband; handsome and weak, he had English royal blood through his maternal grandmother.

William Cecil, Lord Burghley (1520-1598): Schemer, spymaster trusted advisor to Queen Elizabeth I and Mary's most dangerous enemy.

Elizabeth I (1533-1603): England's Virgin Queen, who ruled during its Golden Age, a cousin of Mary's through Henry VII.

Francis II (1544-1560): married to Mary in 1558 and briefly king of France before he died of an ear infection.

James VI (also James I) (1566-1625): Mary's son by Darnley; he was separated from his mother when he was 10 months old and never saw her again; he claimed the English throne after Elizabeth died childless in 1603.

John Knox (circa 1514-1572): the leader of the Protestant Reformation in Scotland, virulently misogynistic and anti-Catholic.

The Four Maries: the Scottish queen's maids of honor, all noblewomen who went to France with her: Mary Fleming (dates unknown), Mary Beaton (1543-1598), Mary Livingstone (1541-1579) and Mary Seton (1549-1615). Seton was the only one of the four who never married and remained with the queen during most of her incarceration in England.

James Stewart, Earl of Moray (1531-1570): Mary's illegitimate half brother and counselor; a canny man who turned against her after her marriage to Darnley.

The timeline of Mary, Queen of Scots

By Susan Spano
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1542: Mary Stuart is born at Linlithgow Palace in Scotland; her father, James V, dies six days later.

1543: A treaty is drawn up betrothing the Scottish princess to the heir to the English throne, Henry VIII's short-lived son, the future Edward VI, but the Scottish Parliament soon repudiates the agreement, preferring a French alliance; 9-month-old Mary is crowned Queen of Scots at Stirling Castle.

1544: The English wooing of Mary (and through her, Scotland) turns rough as Henry VIII sends troops across the border.

1548: The Scots Parliament agrees to a marriage between Mary and the French dauphin, later Francis II; the little princess is taken to France for her own safety.

1558: Mary and Francis wed at Notre-Dame in Paris.

1559: Henry II dies in a jousting contest and Francis succeeds him, making 17-year-old Mary queen of France as well as Scotland.

1560: Francis II dies of an ear infection. Negotiations over a remarriage for the young widow are inconclusive.

1561: Mary returns to Scotland after an absence of 13 years and meets a bitter adversary, Calvinist minister John Knox; she proclaims that Protestantism should remain the religion of the realm, while practicing her Catholicism in private.

1565: Mary takes a second husband, her cousin Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley; the choice, which bolsters her claim to the English throne, infuriates Queen Elizabeth

1566: David Rizzio, the queen's private secretary, is killed in her presence by conspirators, including a jealous Darnley; Mary gives birth to a son, the future James VI of Scotland, later James I of England, but her relationship with Darnley fails and in the fall she nearly dies of a fever.

1567: Scottish lords, including Mary's advisor James Hepburn, the 4th Earl of Bothwell, kill Darnley at Kirk o' Field house in Edinburgh. Mary stuns the court by marrying Bothwell three months after Darnley's death, thereby prompting her enemies to take up arms against her. She is captured by rebel nobles at the Battle of Carberry Hill, then incarcerated at Lochleven Castle, where she miscarries a child thought to have been Bothwell's.

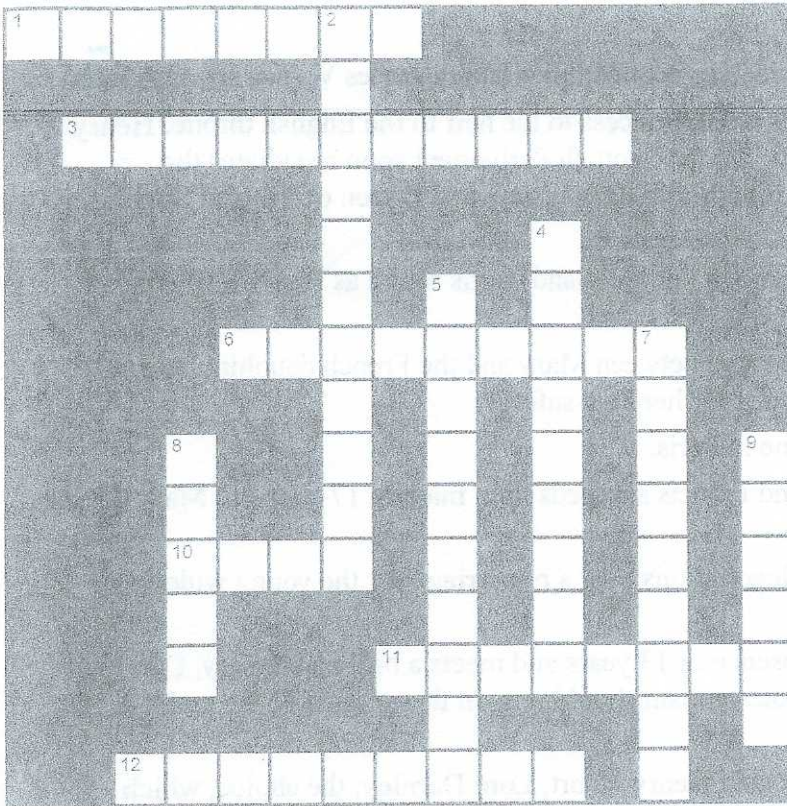
1568: Mary escapes, fights one last losing battle with rebels at Langside near Glasgow and then escapes to England, where she is imprisoned by Queen Elizabeth for the next 21 years.

1586: Mary is found guilty of treason against the English crown.

1587: Mary is beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in Northamptonshire, England.

1603: Elizabeth dies and is succeeded by Mary's son, James, uniting the realms of England and Scotland.

Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth Crossword



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Across

- 1 Mary's third husband was the Earl of _____ (8)
- 3 Castle where Mary was executed (11)
- 6 These were painted to show Elizabeth was a great queen (9)
- 10 Became Queen of Scotland in 1542 (4)
- 11 Religion of Mary Queen of Scots (8)
- 12 Letters sent to Mary by Thomas _____ led to her execution (9)

Down

- 2 Mary's second husband (4,7)
- 4 Became Queen of England in 1558 (9)
- 5 Religion of Elizabeth (10)
- 7 What happened to Mary's second husband (9)
- 8 Name of Mary's son (5)
- 9 Where Mary spent her childhood (6)