

It's nearly time to begin. Welcome to today's expert live chat with author Samantha Wilcoxson. Thank you for coming and a big thank you to Samantha for her wonderful talk on Mary. I know I thoroughly enjoyed it. If you haven't been to one of these chat sessions before, all you need to do to take part is to type your question or comment in the text box and click "send" or press "return", or you can lurk in the background! Samantha will try and answer your questions in order, but sometimes it gets hard to keep up! I'm here to check everything runs smoothly and to take part too.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)23:53

Thank you, Claire. I'm glad it appeared that way.

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:54

Hi Laurie!

[Laurie Duerr](#)23:54

Hi Claire and everyone!

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:54

Samantha, you seemed so relaxed and just the right passion for your subject. Perfect!

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:54

OK, so, Mary I, Samantha's novels and research... any questions or comments?

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)23:55

Hi Laurie!

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)23:55

Claire, you are too kind.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:55

Do you think Mary ever forgave her father for his treatment of her and her mother

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:56

Samantha we all a mad bunch of scallywags so need to be nervous.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)23:56

That's a great question, Lorna. Of course, we can only guess at Mary's thoughts, but as a devout Catholic I think she would have felt forgiveness was vital. It might have been easier to give once he had died.

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)23:57

Hello everyone

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:57

Do you think Henry VIII was prepared to execute his daughter had she not submitted to him. I know Chapuys was worried.

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:57

Hi Lynne!

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)23:57

Haha! Thanks, Lorna. She respected her father as her monarch and was a dutiful daughter, so I think she would have found it in her heart to forgive him.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)23:57

Hi, Lynne!

[Laurie Duerr](#)23:58

Samantha, do you think the negative perspective that was put on Mary's reputation after her death was due to Elizabeth I and subsequent Protestant's monarch's influence?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:58

Why didn't Mary get her mother's remains moved from Peterborough and honour her (Catherine's) last wishes to bury them where she asked.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)23:58

I don't think Henry would have executed Mary. That seems a bit extreme, even for him. Maybe he would threaten to? Or maybe Chapuys was nervous about her treatment, possibly exaggerating to gain sympathy for Mary?

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:04

Thank you!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:05

Fear was a great weapon and certainly H 8 used it a great deal, poor Mary was put in fear of her life literally

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:06

Laurie, I think Elizabeth's long and successful reign as a Protestant monarch was the most significant reason that Mary is remembered as negatively as she is. Foxe's Book of Martyrs is another good reason. Truth is that Mary really didn't do anything unexpected for a monarch of her time.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:06

Good points, thank you!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:07

Who do you think would have been a more suitable husband for Mary?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:07

I personally feel that the people's hatred of Mary and the Catholic religion in general really started when Mary executed Cranmer

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:07

I believe Mary requested to be buried with her mother, but Elizabeth did not honor this wish.

[Elizabeth Alex](#)0:07

I appreciated the stats you shared, regarding numbers executed, during your talk.

[Anthony Hillman](#)0:07

Can I ask which book on Mary I is your favourite/s Samantha? 🤔

[Adrienne Dillard](#)0:09

John Knox's book probably had something to do with it as well...First Blast of the Trumpet...He was pretty vocal about Mary as well.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:09

Thanks for asking that, Claire! My favorite choice for husband for Mary is her cousin, Reginald Pole. He did return from Rome to partner with her counter-reformation, but I think he would have been a popular choice - certainly more popular than Philip!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:09

I think anyone would have been more popular than Philip! Thank you, I'm sure with their piety they would have been compatible if things had been different.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:09

Good point, Lorna. Executing Cranmer was one of Mary's biggest mistakes. She let things get personal and treated him more harshly than others who recanted, even if his word was doubted.

[Adrienne Dillard](#)0:10

Oh, I like that question Claire! That's a great choice too, Samantha!

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:10

Thank you, Elizabeth. Eamon Duffy's Fires of Faith is a great resource for information on that.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:10

I read somewhere that Reg Pole was due to be impeached or something by the Vatican shortly before his death is that true?

[Adrienne Dillard](#)0:11

Was there anything surprising you found in your research, Samantha?

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:12

Anthony, the biography I relied on most for my novel was Linda Porter's The First Queen of England. She takes a great balanced, detailed look at Mary and the myths about her.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:12

Hi Roland!

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:12

I guess it just seems somewhat odd to me that Reg was considered for either her husband OR the archbishop?!

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:12

Have you ever been on Pinterest Samantha and seen Mary1 with a modern makeover, she looks so amazing .

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:12

You're right, Adrienne.

[Elizabeth Alex](#)0:12

Thank you - Fires of Faith has been noted.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:12

I have always felt that her marriage to Philip was a little about regaining her Spanish roots. After all she utterly betrayed her Spanish family and everything her mother believed in when she signed the dreaded document

[Roland Hui](#)0:13

Did Mary have any intention to move her mother's body from Peterborough Cathedral?

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:13

Oh, I love talking about Reginald too, Lorna! He had been ordered back to Rome to face the Inquisition, yes. Of course, Mary would not send him. Reginald was balanced enough in his beliefs to be called a heretic by both sides.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:15

Would the pope have released Reginald from his vows if Mary had wanted to marry him

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:16

Good question, Adrienne. I was honestly surprised to even end up writing about Mary. When I wrote about her as a girl in my novel about Margaret Pole, I didn't really intend on continuing with a book about her. I was really drawn in by how different she seemed than what is commonly said about her.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:17

You're right, Laurie, it is a bit unusual. Reginald had been put forward earlier (before the Great Matter) as a potential husband for Mary, but Henry squashed the idea, as he did any other marriage plans for Mary.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:17

So what is it that intrigues you about Mary?

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:18

Yes, Lynne! Those modern makeovers are so creative, and I love that Mary looks so lovely in hers.

[Adrienne Dillard](#)0:18

Isn't it funny how it always ends up that way? I felt that way about Jane B. Never imagined writing about her. You were definitely meant to tell Mary's story because you did a wonderful job! I sobbed at the end.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:19

I agree, Lorna, Mary felt that she could trust Charles V, Philip's father, more than anyone else. She was naive in this, because, of course, Charles was looking out for the Holy Roman Empire, not Mary.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:19

You did a wonderful Job with Jane B and Catherine C Adrienne.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:20

I would have to look into that, Roland. I know that Mary requested to be buried with her mother, but I don't remember where she wished it to be. If I have time while we're here, I will try to go through my notes.

[Adrienne Dillard](#)0:21

Thank you, Lorna!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:21

I know Catherine had left orders to be buried in a Chapel of the Observant Friars but there were none left after the dissolution, so Mary couldn't have fulfilled her mother's wishes, I don't believe.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:23

Do you think Mary was damaged by what happened to her after Henry abandoned Catherine? He treated them so abominably and Mary must have been eaten by guilt when she did submit to him.

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:24

In the 1998 film Elizabeth, Kathy Burke played Mary 1 do you think that Mary's character was like that? Hope you seen the film

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:24

Good question, Lorna. That would have depended upon when Reginald made the request & of which Pope. He had a very good relationship with Pope Paul III. Any pope would have likely seen the advantage to having someone like Reginald as King of England, so I think there is a good chance it would have been approved. Unless the request was made of Paul IV. He's the one who attempted to recall Reginald for investigation.

[Roland Hui](#)0:25

If Mary had indeed escaped to the Emperor during the reign of Edward VI, do you think if she invaded England (with Charles V's help) to claim the throne, that she would have succeeded? With the backing of a foreign power might appear 'unEnglish' and be resented.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:25

Would you say that Bishop Bonner was a fanatic or a sadist. As his methods I would say were far more brutal than his predecessor

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:27

I ended up feeling that Mary had been unfairly maligned. I admired her faith, although I am not Catholic. The Mary that I discovered when I looked deeper wasn't cruel or vengeful. She was devout and too trusting, but didn't live up to the 'Bloody Mary' image I had always heard about. That was what intrigued me - reading about instances of her generosity and mercy. Also, reading her speeches and realizing how much Elizabeth learned from her.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:27

Thanks so much, Adrienne. It is an emotional book.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:30

You're right, Claire. There was no way for Mary to be undamaged by what her father had done. To me, that makes her instances of mercy even more compelling. She had been raised to believe that a monarch did what Henry VIII did. He was much more ruthless than she was. He also left her unprepared to reign, since he spent her entire life trying to replace her as his heir. She had physical problems her whole adult life that were exacerbated by stress, if not caused by them.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:31

Sorry, Lynne. I have not seen it. I shouldn't admit it, but Elizabeth is where my interest in the Tudors tapers off.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:31

I feel Mary thought by her execution/burnings etc she was saving her people from the hell her father had created. Does she deserve the title of bloody Mary? Yes I think she does, but then there have been other rulers and dictators worse than she was

[Elizabeth Alex](#)0:32

Thank you Samantha, Claire, and all. I'm off. Look forward to reading the rest later.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:33

Hmmmm, Roland. That is a tough one. Mary had her chances to escape England, and she chose not too. Maybe she realized that she would not be able to come back - invasion force or otherwise - if she did. I do not believe she would have had the popular support that put her on the throne if she had been at the head of a Spanish fleet. After all, the English began to despise her for her marriage to Philip, not her Catholicism.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:34

Bonner was definitely the cruel one in Mary's counter-reformation. She wished to convert people, not kill them.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:34

Thank you for joining in, Elizabeth, night!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:36

I think the stress related health issues affected both Mary and Elizabeth, but I feel Elizabeth perhaps coped or found a way to cope with them better. Mary felt that God was punishing her for not burning enough people

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:36

I read somewhere that Mary would have been happier as a mother superior than a queen. I always disagreed with this comment but what do you think ?

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:37

It is difficult for us to wrap our heads around the idea of burning as a punishment since it is so far away from anything we find acceptable. The fact that people of the 16th century even thought it gave the victim an opportunity and repent, therefore receiving eternal life, is not how most modern people think. I do find it interesting that Mary is known as Bloody Mary for burning Protestants (a rather common punishment at the time) while Elizabeth having Catholic priests hanged, drawn, and quartered is scarcely mentioned. Surely, that is not more merciful.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:37

Bye, Elizabeth! So glad you stopped by.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:38

Samantha, I'm wondering that if there hadn't been the rebellion after Lady's Jane's arrest, with her father involved, do you think that Mary would have just left her in the Tower, as opposed to actually executing her?

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:40

I'm not sure Mary thought God wanted her to burn more people. She believed that it was her job to restore the 'true faith' and that was one tool in doing that. She believed it was her duty as monarch to ensure her subjects' eternal life and that Protestantism damned them to hell. Burning people was not the goal. There was also special sermons prepared and distributed so that people could learn about Catholicism, and other steps were taken to convert rather than punish.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:41

I think you're right, Lynne. If Mary had wanted to become a nun, she could have done that. She desired a family, even if she did not expect to be queen once she had a much younger brother.

[Bill Wolff](#)0:42

Stress was mentioned. Do you think the pressure to produce an heir complicated her "pregnancy."

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:43

Definitely, Laurie. Mary hoped to leave Jane imprisoned until the kingdom was secured and eventually pardon her. The actions of Jane's father put Mary under pressure to demonstrate that she was a strong monarch who did not bend to rebels.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:43

So would have Mary been more successful as Queen if she had of steered the midline as Elizabeth did.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:44

religion wise I mean

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:45

Thank you Samantha.. yes it is understandable that the rebellion put Mary in a tough position.. unfortunately she couldn't let Jane be an example of unworthy leniency..

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:45

Poor Mary and her false pregnancies. Mary was in her forties by the time she was married, so she was unlikely to get pregnant regardless of the stress or lack thereof. Mary's cycles had always been painful for her, causing headaches and palpitations, and I do believe that at least some of this had to be due to stress.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:46

And Philip didn't help matters by not being around much!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:46

But didn't Phillip refuse to come to England unless Jane was executed? Again I feel that was another one of Mary's biggest blunders.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:47

If I have remembered it rightly Phillip always referred to Mary as his great aunt or something

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:47

That's an interesting question, Lorna. First, I don't think Elizabeth was as midline as she is given credit for being. Catholics left England during her reign and priests were cruelly executed. 16th century monarchs were expected to direct religion in their kingdoms. The idea that Mary might not probably never occurred to her. Mary had the popular support of the people when she became queen. They would have all expected her to restore Catholicism. What Englishmen did not want was to become a part of the HRE.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:48

Yes, Claire! That is true too. Philip was a terrible husband in many ways.

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:48

I always thought it so sad that on Mary's prayer book it's said that it has her tears on some if it's pages is the true Samantha?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:49

He certainly only saw England as a big piggy bank in order to continue the war, his own country was running out of money so why not empty the english coffers instead.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:49

The Jane situation is difficult. She had taken the throne. Manipulated or otherwise, once she was crowned she embraced it.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:50

Philip did mistakenly refer to Mary as his aunt, I believe in a letter to his father or maybe after receiving a letter from his father about the proposed betrothal.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:51

Philip completely bankrupted his country (and ours) by 1557/8 anyway.

[Roland Hui](#)0:51

It's interesting that Katharine Parr and Mary appeared to be close. KP obviously kept her more radical religious opinions to herself.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:51

That wouldn't surprise me, Lynne, but I do not know if it is true or not. Mary was a very emotional and devout person, so it makes sense.

[Adrienne Dillard](#)0:52

I wonder if Mary had endometriosis or PCOS. It seems like she always had troubles in that area. And of course exacerbated by her extreme stress. I feel so bad for her.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:52

Did Mary regret Jane's execution

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:52

Charles and Philip had much more selfish motivations than Mary ever guessed. She was far too trusting of them.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:53

Good point, Roland. I think the friendship between Katherine and Mary is proof that Mary was not this evil Protestant hater that she is portrayed as.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:54

Pity Mary hadn't learned anything from her father about trusting the spanish or the french. He didn't trust either of them

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:54

I think that is very likely, Adrienne. It is sad to think of her suffering with something like that for decades.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:54

Lorna, I'm not sure if Mary spoke of Jane's execution after the fact. It is documented that she did not wish to do it.



[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:55

True, Lorna. Henry had not taught Mary who she could trust though.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:56

Yes Mary did everything she could to try and convert Jane to Catholicism. but in vain

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:57

Samantha, do you think that Mary's defiance of Edward VI by still having Masses during his reign was mainly due to her feeling like he was just her younger brother, and that he wouldn't really penalize her?

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:57

Yes, she did, Laurie, partly so she could use it as a reason to pardon her.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:58

How do you think Mary viewed Elizabeth and Edward

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:58

did she trust/love/like them

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:58

If I could relate a modern song about Mary it would be Candel in the wind . What do you think Samantha or am I just been romantic?

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)0:59

I've just found more info on Mary's burial we were talking about earlier. She did request that Elizabeth move Catherine's remains to lay beside her at Westminster, but Elizabeth chose not to.

[Adrienne Dillard](#)0:59

It seems like Chapuys was the only man in her life who ever really and truly had her best interests at heart.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:59

Lynne I have a song that is ideal for H8 but Claire would smack my hands for telling you

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)1:00

Spoil sport 😊

[Claire Ridgway](#)1:00

That hour zoomed by! Thank you so much to Samantha for joining us here tonight and thank you, members, for asking such wonderful questions! It's been a wonderful hour of talking Tudor. Elizabeth Alex is the winner of Samantha's novel "Queen of Martyrs: The Story of Mary I", so well done to her. I know she had to go but we'll let her know.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)1:00

Mary seemed to view Elizabeth, and especially Edward, much as a mother to them. She was much older, so it makes sense. I think Mary was hurt by Edward increasingly pulling away from her as he got older.

[Bill Wolff](#)1:00

Great info SW! Keep up the good work!

[Claire Ridgway](#)1:00

Samantha, you've been wonderful. Thank you for giving your time tonight and for your talk too, it was excellent.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)1:01

Thank you samantha, please feel free to drop in our forum and make a comment on any post that tickles your fancy

[Adrienne Dillard](#)1:01

Thank you, Samantha!

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)1:01

Yes thank you Samantha and Claire, it's been great . Goodnight all

[Lorna Wanstall](#)1:01

Nice one Elizabeth happy reading

[Claire Ridgway](#)1:01

Thank you, everyone, have a wonderful weekend whatever your plans are.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)1:01

I think she did love them, but she grew to distrust Elizabeth. Did she still love her though? It was a difficult relationship.

[Laurie Duerr](#)1:02

Thank you Samantha and Claire!

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)1:02

I think that's very sweet, Lynne. What's wrong with being romantic?

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)1:02

Yes, Adrienne. You may be right. Poor Mary.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)1:03

Haha! Behave, Lorna. 😊

[Roland Hui](#)1:03

Thanks for the great talk!

[Claire Ridgway](#)1:03

Lorna, behave? Ha! Only joking!

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)1:03

Thank you, Claire. This has been great!

[Anthony Hillman](#)1:03

Thank you for the talk Samantha! Really enjoyed it 😊

[Claire Ridgway](#)1:03

It's been fun, educational and interesting. Some great questions and answers. Very insightful.

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)1:03

Thank you, Bill! I appreciate the encouragement. Writers definitely need it!

[Claire Ridgway](#)1:04

Night night everyone!

[Samantha Wilcoxson](#)1:04

Thanks all! You have been very welcoming.

[Claire Ridgway](#)1:04

Night x

[Lorna Wanstall](#)1:05

right I'm off up the old wooden hill, Katt (My savannah Cat) is biting my ankles, she always does when it's bedtime. Take care and keep safe everyone Xx

Thanks! Here it is: <https://samanthawilcoxson.blogspot.com/>