

5. Henry VIII

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Segregating events that relate to a selected marriage from events that are unrelated to that marriage

One of the situations that prompted me to write Precision Genealogical Tools in the first instance was my great grandmother who was widowed and then re-married. Trying to find a package that would record this lady's life in a clear unambiguous way proved fruitless at that time. Having determined to go down the route of writing something, I felt that Henry VIII was the ultimate test with which my package had to cope with. The results for Henry comprise a total of six reports which show Henry's marriages from the perspective of each wife in turn. I attach the report for Catherine of Aragon. (The original is colour-coded for ease of interpretation).

An interesting point to note about Catherine of Aragon is that she married Arthur Tudor prior to marrying Henry (in 1501 according to my source). This can be clearly seen on Catherine's side of the Diary. Whether or not they had children can be determined simply by looking at the middle column – this shows children who are attributed to either the Husband or the Wife. In this case we can see that Catherine had no children when she married Henry.

The first entry in the middle column is in 1510 – Daughter Tudor. From the fact that the entry for Daughter Tudor spans Henry's side of the sheet and Catherine's side too, it can be seen that Henry is the Father, Catherine the Mother.

Now look further down the Diary to 1533. You will see that Elizabeth I was born in this year. Henry's side shows him to be the Father, but there is no corresponding entry on Catherine's

side, therefore she is not the mother.

So who is the mother? Henry married Anne Boleyn in 1533, so there could be the answer. With access to the program these Diaries can be “browsed” in arbitrary ways. All you would need to do is double-click on that particular entry and that would reveal who Elizabeth I's mother was. In a similar manner, we can look further and find Edward VI (born 1537).

The social aspects of the Family Event Diary

Note that Catherine of Aragon died in 1536. That entry prompts the question: Did Henry attend the funeral? Wikipedia as usual, has the answer.

Similar questions can be asked about entries in the middle column. In this case there are no marriages of any of Henry's children during the period he was alive. In a typical family there will be. Did the parents attend their child's wedding?

It can be seen that Catherine had six children by Henry. Mary Tudor was the only one to survive into adulthood. Marriages and deaths of children are shown (in addition to births) if they occurred during the lifetimes of their parents. Look down the middle column, Mary does not appear again. The PGT program itself can of course be used to construct Mary's full timeline.

Gaps in the Birth record

The spacing of births in these Diaries is interesting from the genealogists point of view. In many Diaries there may be similar spacing to that shown, followed by a gap, followed by other births. This could be indicative of a birth that has been overlooked by the researcher.