



The National Archives

Press release

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WILTSHIRE CELEBRATES ITS TUDOR QUEEN

As part of the celebrations marking the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII accession to the throne, the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre has launched an online resource looking at his marriage to Wiltshire-born Jane Seymour. Part of the [Archive Awareness Campaign](#) the blog looks at some of the records relating to their marriage, and in particular Henry's gifts of land and properties to his "favourite wife".

Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre holds several documents relating to Henry's third marriage. Henry became engaged to Jane Seymour, already his mistress, only one day after the execution of Anne Boleyn on 19 May 1536 – the couple were married on 30 May 1536. The wedding took place in Great Bedwyn, Wiltshire, the home of Jane's father, Sir John Seymour of Wolfhall.

Henry gave his new queen a large number of estates and manors by way of marriage settlement. The blog features images of two beautiful letters patent from 1536, part of the settlement, which are also the title deeds to the properties given to Jane – each lavishly decorated deed has a portrait of Henry.

Archivist Steve Hobbs from the History Centre, said:

"Something like this is of great local interest because the Seymours were the county's most important family at that time. They relate to arguably England's most famous King and his favourite Queen so they're of international significance too. People from all over the world can now get in touch with us to come and see these documents."

Angela Owusu, Archive Awareness Campaign Officer, said:

“There is no substitute for resources which tell you how people lived, what they saw, felt and thought. The blog will be a treat to read, especially during this anniversary year. It demonstrates the many treasures people can come across in the archives.”

To view the Henry VIII blog on the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre log on to www.wshc.eu/blog

Ends

For further details, spokespeople or images on the Archive Awareness Campaign, please contact **Angela Owusu** on **0208 392 5237** or email pressoffice@nationalarchives.gov.uk

Notes to Editors

- The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham opened in October 2007. It houses hundreds of thousands of archives on seven miles of shelving. It is open to members of the public free of charge but visitors who want to view documents are advised to book an appointment on **01249 705500**.
- For more information about the blog contact communications at Wiltshire County Council on **01225 713114/5/6** archives@wiltshire.gov.uk or write to Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham SN15 3QN.
- Archive Awareness is spearheaded by the National Council on Archives (www.ncaonline.org.uk) and funded by The National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (www.mla.gov.uk).
- Archive Awareness Campaign www.archiveawareness.com is an ongoing celebration of all kinds of fascinating archive treasures. It celebrates and promotes local and national archives. Throughout the year archives across the country open their doors to showcase history, hold open days and present workshops to help the public discover a piece of their own history.

