

Summary for December, 1290

December

In the story of “Catherine, Called Birdy,” Catherine and her friend Gerd went to the village of Wooton. Catherine wanted to go with Perkin but he was nowhere to be found. Catherine left her chores.

At the village, Catherine saw her first hanging. She thought there were two thieves, horrible individuals. Instead, she found that the thieves were two young boys, about 12 years old, who were very frightened about the hanging. One of the boys held on to her sleeve and begged her to intervene. She left the scene running and eventually vomited all her breakfast. She heard all the villagers as they cheered and yelled for the two boys to hang good.

As the weather turned rainy and very cold, she witnessed a very somber sight. A very tall man and many, many soldiers dressed in black cloaks marched carrying a coffin. Because Catherine had never seen the King, she believed the funeral procession was for the King.

On the third day of December, Uncle George was drunk all day, and Aelis had been taken to the King's Court to celebrate Christmas.

Two of Catherine's brothers returned for the Christmas celebration. The family could hardly recognize Thomas, who had been at the King's service since he was a young boy and had participated in many Crusades.

By December 6th all Jews have been expelled from England. Catherine asked herself if it was blasphemy to ask GOD to protect the Jews. Catherine tries new

profanities against God: God's nails, thumbs, knees, chin, feet, ears.

During the middle of December, the weather turns very cold. Catherine kept her covers on to guard against the cold. She wore several dresses and covered her birds to keep them from freezing.

On December 12th, Catherine and her family celebrated the Feast of Saints Mercuria, Dionysia, and the two Ammonarias. They did not celebrate the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe because Christopher Columbus was not yet born. "America" had not been "discovered."

Catherine used a candle to light her reading materials under the covers. ``

On December 15th Catherine tries to discourage a young suitor but instead she encourages him to ask for a dowry.

Pretending she is very rich, her family owns lots of land, many manors, has many tenants, many animals and has great treasures on their chest, she fills his imagination with great riches.

Catherine's father throws the chamber pot full to the brim onto his head as he runs away into the stable.

It was Christmas Day. This is how they celebrated:

They ate a boar's head with apples and ivy, herring pie, fried milk, onion and mustard omelets, turnip soup, figs stuffed with cinnamon and hard boiled eggs, and they drank mulled pear cider.