

Queen Anne's Lace Legends and Lore

How did Queen Anne's Lace get its name? You probably guessed that it has to do with Queen Anne, but like most tales and legends surrounding flowers, there are many.

One tale claims that the origin of the name "Queen Anne's lace" comes from the lace that was popular during the days of King James I and his wife, Queen Anne, who lived between 1574 and 1619. Another states that the name comes from her headdress, which was lacy enough that it resembled the tightly-knit showy white flowers.

But historians claim it's more likely that any legends associated with the flower actually refer to [Queen Anne II](#), who lived between 1665 and 1714. She had only one surviving child in all of her 18 pregnancies. Because of that fact, the flower is often associated with the loss of children.

Some believe the flower got its name because while Queen Anne II was [tattling](#) white lace, she pricked her finger with the tattling needle, causing a drop of blood to fall on the lace. This is why the white flowers have dark red flowers in the center.

In the 18th century, English courtiers referred to this flower as "living lace." According to this legend, the "living lace" name came from a contest that the second Queen Anne II hosted for her ladies-in-waiting. She challenged them to produce a piece of lace as delicate and beautiful as the flower—but none could make lace that could outshine the real thing.

Information from farmersalmanac.com/what-queen-annes-lace



photo by Nicole Schmid