

### "WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

By Mildred Marshall

Facts About Your Name; Its History; Its Meaning; Whence It Was Derived; Its Significance; Your Lucky Day and Lucky Jewel

#### DOROTHY.

One of the quaintest and most whimsical of origin is that from which Dorothy sprang. Theos and Zeus, father of the gods, were identical terms in ancient Greece. From Theos came many masculine names, and one feminine, Theodora, which signified "gift of God" or "divine gift." Curiously enough, the reversal of the name into Do-thea was speedily accomplished and though absolutely incorrect, gained more prevalence in the western world than Theodora has ever achieved.

The beautiful legend of St. Dorothea helped to give her name widespread fame. It is the story of the Cappadocian maiden who sent the roses of paradise by angelic hands as testimony of the joy she was reaping. Dorothea became a patron saint in Germany and England straightly adopted her name because of Massinger's powerful drama. Dorothy was the next step in her evolution and Dolly became a popular diminutive. Indeed, so common was it in usage that it became the generic term for wooden children or puppets in the time of Elizabeth Stuart and hence our own "dolly" or doll, beloved of the small girl.

Dorothy became a Puritan name at the height of the reign of the House of Hanover, and was used by Mrs. Dorothy Cromwell and other floundering daughters. France called her Dorothee, while Germany preferred the original Dorothea, and Italy omitted the aspirate and made her Dorotea. England and America favor Dorothy with its fluffy diminutive Dolly. Russia, by some mysterious translation, derived Darija, though some historians object to this explanation, claiming that the patroness of Darija was an Athenian lady martyred with her husband, Chrysanthus, at Rome, and buried in a catacomb which was opened in the reign of Constantine the Great. The modern Greek rendition of the name of Thorothia.

Dorothy's talismanic gem is the diamond. It is said to afford her protection from evil and bring her happiness. As the old legend goes: "The Evil Eye shall have no power to harm him that shall wear the diamond as a charm."

Saturday is her lucky day and 2 her lucky number, while the flower assigned to her is the daisy, signifying innocence.

#### BABES OF LONG AGO ENDURED MANY TRIALS

To scan pages of curious historical baby lore makes one feel the business of being a baby must have been strenuous in olden days. In the first place a christening, once scheduled, took

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place whatever the weather, and the child was always completely immersed. Tossed on a shovel.

Fearing the fairies and the Evil Eye, mothers were in the habit of taking many strange precautions, some of them simple and others drastic. A mother might toss her child on a hot shovel, or dip him in a pond, for instance, to ward off these evil influences. Or she might use such an easy charm as leaving an open Bible by the baby's side, or hanging the house key above the cradle. Possibly she would place a bit of muslin over the child's face, to ward off the Evil Eye.

Never a Play-Day.

When a baby grew to be a school child his case was no better. This quotation from a description by John Wesley of school life at Kingswood, Bristol, more than a century ago, gives a hint of prevailing customs:

"As we have no play-day, the school being taught every day in the year except Sunday, so neither do we allow any time for play on any day. He that plays when he is a child will play when he is a man."

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