

1. The Great Cat Massacre

I regret having to admit that this is another one of those historical situations that is, well, funny. Awful, disgusting, but funny nonetheless. Perhaps the humor comes out of how absurd the whole situation is. The planning of it, the execution. At no point did anyone say 'hey, maybe this isn't such a good idea....those poor animals did us no harm'.

Would they have even said that? What I wonder is how everyone else treated Cats. It seems bizarre to just assume, as the author does, that some people venerated these creatures while some saw it perfectly acceptable to kill them if the time comes. It wasn't seen as murder. It was hardly even seen as cruel. What was cruel about the massacre is that the Mistress's wife's pet was also killed. The anguish caused to her is what we get, is what's described. The anguish caused to the cats as they were being killed and stuffed in a bag and hanged does not seem to concern the people, or the author, all that much.

What is worthwhile is the analysis of history through minor acts and human mentality. And isn't that what history is all about to begin with? Taking of stories and seeing if they match and how they change. Beyond that, however, is the idea of mentality, the thoughts of the workers, the thoughts of the master and mistress, and how they can be expressed through the actions taken. I don't think people's thoughts and mentalities have changed all that much from period to period. The way in which the laborers hated their master is not wholly different from how workers may despise management. Conflict between boss and employee have not changed, only the surroundings in which these conflicts occur have been altered, if ever so slightly.