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Barbarea

Cruciferae

[*Brassicaceae*]

Barbarea commemorates St. Barbara, a Christian saint whose feast day is usually considered to have been 4th December but it would appear that she was omitted from the Roman litany of saints in 1969. Her history is enveloped in legend which basically recounts how her tyrannical pagan father kept her in a tower where she studied poetry and philosophy and ultimately converted to Christianity. Then viewed as a heretic by her father and the local community, they committed her to death. Her father tortured and beheaded her after which he died as punishment by being struck by lightning. Paintings of her have shown her standing in a tower containing three windows (a symbol of the Holy Trinity). She was associated as a protectress against lightning and fire and today is still considered by some to be a patron saint of artillerymen and miners.