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*Veronica*

*Scrophulariaceae*

*Veronica* is a corruption variously of the old genus name *Betonica* (plants which have a similar foliage and are now included in the *Stachys* genus) or Greek *Beronike*, or Latin *vera* (true, genuine) combined with Greek *icon* (image), or Arabic *viroo nikoo* (beautiful remembrance), or Greek *hiera eicon* (sacred image) – or it commemorates St. Veronica.

With regard to the latter mention of the speedwells found in Christian legend depends upon an alleged resemblance between the flower and Christ's face. The story goes that St. Veronica's handkerchief bore an impression of Christ's face as during His progress to Calvary He used it to wipe off the perspiration.