



AUGUST

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER CONTINUE

THROUGH AUGUST 15

I LAMMAS

Traditional festival of the first grain harvest. Summer is beginning to wane and we, in turn, begin to think of gathering in.

6 ARRIVAL OF THE SHAKERS IN AMERICA

Beautiful sunset celebration at the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Community in Maine honoring the 1774 arrival in America of founder Mother Ann Lee with her small band of followers from England.

12-15 (ABOUT) OBON

This Japanese festival honors the dead with food, music and dancing. It ends with the ancestors returning to their distant shore as illuminated lanterns afloat on the water. Obon has no set date and is celebrated anywhere from July to August, based on use of solar or lunar calendars.

14 TORTA DEI FEISCHI

In Italy, August abounds with festivals like this one: a wedding anniversary celebration in Lavagna that dates back to 1230, featuring a cake 21 feet tall!

15 ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY, FERRAGOSTO

Most Italians close up shop and head to the seaside to cool off for the Ferragosto holiday -a tradition dating back to ancient Rome.

16 IL PALIO

Ferragosto in Siena brings the famous citywide horse race (this one is the *Palio dell'Assunta*, named for the Assumption) with a great deal of local festivity.

24 ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY

St. Bartholomew is a patron saint of bookbinders and book artists, and he's important to printers, too. His day brings the traditional celebratory Printers' Wayzgoose, marking the day each waning summer when printers in England resumed setting type by lamplight and candlelight.

28 ST. AUGUSTINE'S DAY

St. Augustine is the patron saint of brewers.
Huzzah and cheers!



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Image: Stenciled walls at the saltbox in Gray, Maine, where we've spent many a summer.

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