

WITCH MANIA

TIMELINE



WITCHCRAFT TRIALS

One of the periods of frequent witchcraft trials in England.

1541 WITCHCRAFT ACT

King Henry VIII's Act declared witchcraft a felony punishable by death and the forfeiture of goods. Removed the benefit of clergy from those convicted.



1580s

1604 SECOND WITCHCRAFT ACT

Officially "An Act against Conjuración, Witchcraft and Dealing with Evil and Wicked Spirits." This act expanded the Act of 1562 to bring the penalty of death without benefit of clergy to anyone who invoked evil spirits or communed with familiar spirits.



PENDLE WITCH TRIAL

The Pendle witch trials in Lancashire, England, accused 12 witches. The charges included the murder of 10 by witchcraft. Ten were found guilty and executed, one died in prison, and one was found not guilty.



1612

1682 LAST EXECUTION

Three women were accused and tried for witchcraft in the town of Bideford. The unfortunate women were all down on their luck and swept up in the emotional atmosphere of trial, found guilty and hanged on August 25, 1682.



THIRD WITCHCRAFT ACT

Marking an end to the witch trials in England, this act made it a crime for a person to pretend to have the power to call up spirits, foretell the future, or cast spells. The last person jailed under this Act was in 1944 and it was repealed in 1951 by the Fraudulent Mediums Act.



1735