

WITCH MANIA

TIMELINE



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.

WITCHCRAFT TRIALS

1580s

One of the periods of frequent witchcraft trials in England. Influence from the 12th century book "Malleus Maleficarum" were dominate.



1604 SECOND WITCHCRAFT ACT

Formal name: "An Act against Conjurat[i]on, Witchcraft and Dealing with Evil and Wicked Spirits." King James 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

1612

The Pendle witch trials in Lancashire, England. A young girl confessed to witchcraft leading to 12 people being accused. Ten were found guilty and executed, one died in prison, and one was found not guilty.



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

1735

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 The last person jailed under this Act was in 1944 and it was repealed in 1951 by the Fraudulent Mediums Act.



Works Cited

ThoughtCo. "A Timeline of Witch Hunts in Europe." 20 February 2020. www.thoughtco.com/european-witch-hunts-timeline-3530786. Accessed 11 November 2023.