

Lancaster witch

Willowisp Press - History explorer: the Pendle witches



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Newspaper Disappointed to Discover Witch Might Be Prostitute

Woodcut of a British witch c.

The Pendle Witches: 'The Wonderfull Discoverie of Witches in the Countie of Lancaster'

In 1562, early in her reign, Elizabeth passed a law in the form of 5 Eliz. One crisp and cold day in March 1612 a young beggar, Alizon Device, meets a Pedlar, John Law, on the Colne road in the shadow of Pendle Hill.

Pendle Witch Trials (England, 1612

The two women despised one another. She admitted her part in his illness and begged his forgiveness, which he gave.

The Pendle Witches: 'The Wonderfull Discoverie of Witches in the Countie of Lancaster'

What better way to impress the king and put Lancashire on the map as somewhere that was engaging fully in the persecution of witches, than to stage a huge show trial using the most up-to-date witch-hunting techniques? Initially Law made no accusations against Alizon, but she appears to have been convinced of her own powers; when Abraham Law took her to visit his father a few days after the incident, she reportedly confessed, and asked for his forgiveness. And the trial itself was sensational.

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