



Notice Board

► OLD BAILEY

Old Bailey online is a really interesting website and if you're interested in the witchcraft trials take a look at some of the records on this website and have a read.

www.oldbaileyonline.org

► *Merchant Navy Seamen records*

Find my past.com has just added 1 million new merchant navy records. The records are index cards which the Registrar General of Shipping and Seaman used between the two world wars to produce a centralised index of merchant seamen serving on British merchant navy vessels. They cover the period 1918-1941

www.findmypast.com

Upcoming Visits

LMA Trip on 22nd October if anyone is interested please let us know

Jack The Ripper Walk

We are planning a Jack the Ripper Walk for either 19th or 26th November. Let us know your thoughts!

Jennet Device



Between the periods of 1480 to 1750 Britain and Europe was at a very sensitive place in time. There was a great divide between the rich and the poor and the upperclass and lower class. The church and religion played a big part of many peoples lives and families brought their children up around the church. Most working class people and peasants were unable to read or write or have schooling. So the lack of knowledge and especially medical knowledge led people believing all sorts. So many would never think to question faith, rumours or belief.

So when tragedy occurred or illness, people would believe that they were being punished by God or something supernatural such as witchcraft or evil spirits. Even the black death otherwise known as the Bubonic Plague)that killed thousands, was blamed by many on witchcraft.

Witchcraft came to light through the printing press which was introduced in 1456 by Johannes Gutenberg. The printing press

- elderly
- Spinsters on their own
- widowed women
- poor

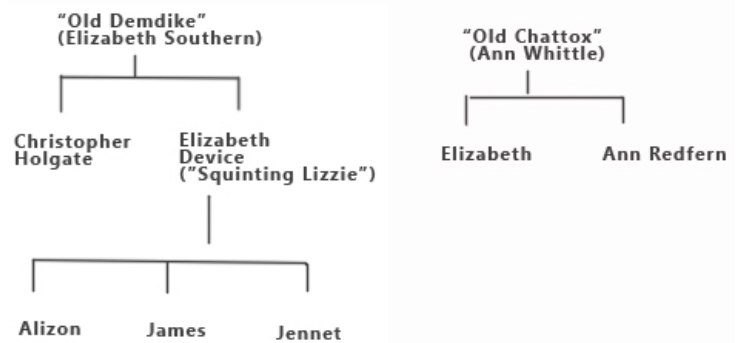
There were 270 Elizabethan witch trials of 247 were women and only 23 were men! One of the most famous witch craft trials was the witches of Pendle which was recorded in the 17th century. The Pendle witches all came from Pendle Hill in Lancashire and it was there where twelve people were accused of being a witches. Firstly accused was the Demdike family Elizabeth Southern; alias Demdike, Elizabeth Device(daughter of Demdike and mother of James and Alizon who were also accused. The Chattox family included Anne Whittle, alias Chattox, and Anne Redferne daughter of Chattox. Then there was the Bulcock family which included Jane Bulcock and John Bulcock(son of Jane Bulcock.

The Pendle witch trial was all based on the words of a nine year old girl called Jennet Device who was daughter of Elizabeth Device who was one of the accused. The child was an illegitimate beggar who lived with her mother Elizabeth, her grandmother Demdike, older sister Alizon and brother James. People in the Village spread word that Demdike was a "cunning woman".

In March 1612, Alizon cursed a pedlar who would not give her any pins. The pedlar collapsed and his son reported it to an ambitious local magistrate, Roger Nowell. Alizon who was then interviewed by Roger then confessed to him of bewitching the pedlar but also accused their neighbours, who the family were having a feud with, of bewitching and killing four people. The neighbours then returned the blame on Demdike. He then arrested Alizon, granny Demdike, as well as

When the trial went on at the magistrates Nowell used Jennet as the key witness in the case. Records exist of how Jennet's mother Elizabeth screamed out when her daughter entered the court. Jennet demanded her mother be removed and then climbed onto the table and announced that her mother was a witch.

Jennet's evidence was believed by the jury and after a two-day trial all her family and most of her neighbours were found guilty of causing death or harm by witchcraft. The following day after they were hanged at Gallows Hill.



Article by Cheryl Elizabeth Davis 2011

Plague-Water Recipe

Take a pound of Rue, of Rosemary, Sage, Sorrel, Celandine, Mugwort, of the tops of red Brambles, of Pimpernel, Wild-draggons, Arimony, Balm, Angelica, of each a pound. Put these Compounds in a pot, fill it with White-wine above the herbs, so let it stand four days. Then still it for your use in a Limbeck.