

Dornoch witch stone, Scotland

Dornoch witch stone, Scotland, where Janet Horne was the last to be executed as a witch by burning in (1722 or) 1727. Dornoch former Royal burgh in the Highlands of Scotland.

<http://scotlandsgenealogy.blogspot.fr/2011/10/memorials-to-scotlands-last-witches.html>

The stone that marks the execution of the last witch in Scotland to be condemned to death is --by the Highland Royal Burgh of Dornoch.



Janet Horne had been a lady's maid before she married, but by 1727 she was old and confused. Early that year her neighbours reported that she was using witchcraft to turn her daughter into 'the devil's pony.'

Janet and her daughter whose hand was deformed were imprisoned in Dornoch, where they were tried and found guilty of witchcraft. The daughter escaped before she could be punished, but her mother was sentenced to death.

The next day, Janet Horne was stripped, rolled in tar and placed in a barrel. A grim procession carried her from the High Street to this place, where she was burned alive. She was the last recorded person in Scotland to die in this terrible way.

The execution place is marked by this stone in a private garden overlooking the golf course and the Dornoch Firth. The date on the stone should be 1727 not 1722.

Nine years after her death the Witchcraft Acts were repealed in Scotland and England and it became unlawful to execute anyone for alleged witchcraft.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janet_Horne

http://www.discoversutherland.co.uk/dornoch_witch.php

In the garden of the last house in Carnaig Street in the Littletown area of Dornoch there stands a small stone marked with the year 1722. This is known as the Witch's Stone and marks the spot where the last execution in Scotland for witchcraft took place.

The year 1722 on the stone is incorrect as it was in fact in 1727 that Janet Horne met her fate on this spot. Despite being old and confused, her neighbours had accused her of using witchcraft to turn her daughter into a pony for the devil. The simple fact that Janet's daughter had a deformed hand may be the only reason why people accused her of this crime.

Janet and her daughter were imprisoned in Dornoch jail where they were both tried and found guilty of witchcraft. They were sentenced to death but the daughter managed to escape. Janet was not so fortunate. The day after sentencing she was stripped and rolled in tar. She was then placed in a barrel and taken in a procession to what is now Carnaig Street where she was burned alive, the last person in Scotland to suffer this fate.