

## Islandmagee Irland Ireland

Gedenktafel für Opfer der Hexenprozesse Irland

Plague for the witches?

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islandmagee\\_witch\\_trial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islandmagee_witch_trial)

In March 1711, eight women appeared in court in Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, as part of a sensational trial that found them guilty. They were put in the stocks for the public to rain stones and rotten fruit upon them, before being jailed for a year.

The public records office holding many Church of Ireland records was burned down during the Irish Civil War between 1922-1923.

<http://www.independent.ie/lifestyle/the-witches-of-antrim-26737807.html>

The author Martina Devlin,

<http://www.martinadevlin.com/about.html#>

<http://www.martinadevlin.com/novel-the-house-where-it-happened.html>

whose novel tells the story of the Islandmagee witch trials of 1711, the last convictions for witchcraft in Ireland, has been campaigning to clear the names of the eight. As part of her battle to have the women posthumously pardoned, Devlin managed to persuade officials on Larne borough council in Northern Ireland to erect a plaque in their memory at a visitors centre in Islandmagee on the East Antrim coast.

Christian councillor objects to Islandmagee ‘witches’ plaque

TUV party hardliner Jack McKee refuses to back plans for memorial to Irish women convicted of witchcraft in 1711 as it would be ‘anti-God’. He believes the plaque to remember them could become a “shrine to paganism”. He remained to be convinced that the women were not guilty of devil worship.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/05/islandmagee-witches-plaque-christian-jack-mckee>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islandmagee#/media/File:Near\\_Browns\\_Bay,\\_Islandmagee\\_-\\_geograph.org.uk\\_-\\_172680.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islandmagee#/media/File:Near_Browns_Bay,_Islandmagee_-_geograph.org.uk_-_172680.jpg)

The decision of Larne Borough Council to raise a memorial plaque to eight women from east Antrim convicted of witchcraft in the early 1700s has been objected to by one Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV) councilor on religious grounds, saying he would not support “devil worship.” Despite objections, the plaque will go up, with the majority of council members voting for the memorial.

<http://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/memorial-for-irish-witch-trials-objected-to-as-anti-god-and-devil-worship>

Witches of Islandmagee: Toil and trouble over memorial plans

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-31148230>

### **Florence Newton**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florence\\_Newton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florence_Newton)

Florence Newton (Floruit 1661) was an alleged Irish witch, known as the "Witch of Youghal". The case against Newton is described as one of the most important examples of Irish witch trials. The trial displays many similarities with the witch trials in England. The case has been referred to as the most known of 17th-century witch trials in Ireland.

Florence Newton was arrested and imprisoned 24 March 1661 accused of having enchanted Mary Longdon. She was put on trial 11 September 1661.

In the Christmas of 1660, Newton had visited the house of John Pyne and asked to be given a piece of beef, and when she was denied, left mumbling curses. Afterward, she had met Longdon, an employee of Pyne, on the street and kissed her. Longdon had then become sick, and experienced fits, cramps and visions, and the house had been affected with poltergeists.

People suspected sorcery as the cause. At this point, a coven of witches were suspected to exist in the area. Two of the supposed members, Goody Halfpenny and Goody Dod, were taken to her, but without effect. When Newton was brought to her, Longdon's fits grew worse, and she eventually pointed out Newton. Soon, Newton was accused of another case of sorcery; she was charged with having caused the death of David Jones. At the trial, the widow of Jones said that Newton had kissed the hand of Jones in prison, and afterward, he had become sick and died after having screamed the name of Newton on his death bed.

Unfortunately, the court documents are missing, and the verdict are therefore not confirmed. It is estimated that she was judged guilty, which means she would have been executed.

Witch trials were not common in Ireland, and those cases mentioned are poorly documented.

In 1606, the clergyman John Aston was accused of having used spells to discover missing people and hidden treasures, and was upon the king's orders sent to England; the result of the trial is not known. In 1685, the son of Christopher Crofts was taken ill at Cork, and his sickness blamed upon Gammer Welsh, whom his father had sent to prison, and in 1699, a woman is reported to have been arrested, sentenced to death, strangled and burned at Aston for having cast a spell on a nine-year-old girl.

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/05/islandmagee-witches-plaque-christian-jack-mckee>

<http://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/Memorial-for-Irish-witch-trials-objected-to-as-anti-God-and-devil-worship.html>

Islandmagee witches plaque plan sparks ‘devil worship’ outburst

<http://www.larnetimes.co.uk/news/local-news/islandmagee-witches-plaque-plan-sparks-devil-worship-outburst-1-6560429>

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/larne-tuv-votes-against-anti-god-witch-hunt-plaque-1-6561888>

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/unholy-row-as-irish-town-plans-plaque-to-mark-1711-witch-trial-30966298.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islandmagee\\_witch\\_trial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islandmagee_witch_trial)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_McKee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_McKee)