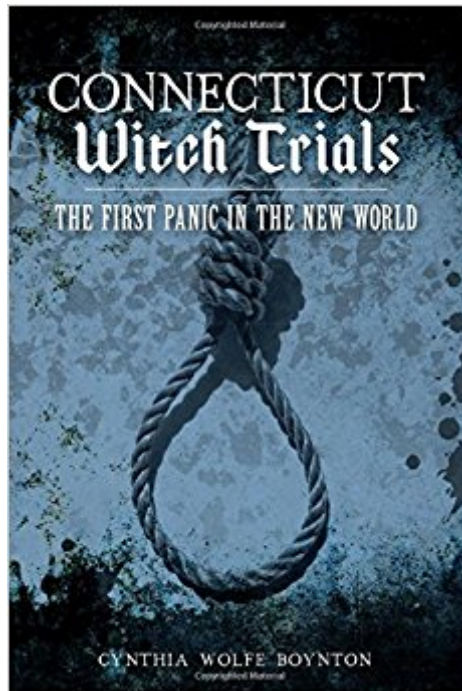




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Connecticut Witch Trials: The First Panic In The New World



Synopsis

Connecticut's witch hunt was the first and most ferocious in New England, occurring almost fifty years before the infamous Salem witch trials. Between 1647 and 1697, at least thirty-four men and women from across the state were formally charged with witchcraft. Eleven were hanged. In New Haven, William Meeker was accused of cutting off and burning his pig's ears and tail as he cast a bewitching spell. After the hanging of Fairfield's Goody Knapp, magistrates cut down and searched her body for the marks of the devil. Through newspaper clippings, court records, letters and diaries, author Cynthia Wolfe Boynton uncovers the dark history of the Connecticut witch trials.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An award-winning journalist, playwright and poet, Cindy Boynton is a freelance writer whose background includes more than fifteen years as a regular correspondent for the New York Times and nine years as editor and publishing director of Better Health magazine. Cindy is also an English and communications instructor at the Yale School of Medicine and Housatonic Community College, as well as host of the weekly Literary New England Radio Show podcast.

I am a Connecticut resident and found the book very entertaining. It has the right mix of historical facts and intriguing stories. The book is well written and contains numerous illustrations and charts to supplement the text and stories. The author does a good job of separating fact from folklore. After reading the book I had a better understanding of my states historical past.

It's a small book so the immediate reaction was that it will be a quick read - it was. It would however, be a mistake to also think that because it was a small book that it would not be well written or accurate. Since I was not about to verify each footnote or reference - I will take it the information is as accurate as the author was able to ascertain. The writing, and therefore the reading, was actually quite good as far as a book about history goes. History can be boring and dry but this moved along with good information well written in a manner that kept it interesting.

Informative but didn't meet the expectations I had been looking for. I was looking for more detailed information into individual cases but found only generalized stories.

This is the definitive resource about the accusation of witches in CT. The presentation is factual and yet contains human stories clearly organized. The result is an interesting history of a dark time that is at risk of being forgotten.

Great book - what you don't know might surprise you. :)

It's Excellent. Am making it gift to my best friend! We both have "witches" in our Genealogy.

I was disappointed in this book for several reasons. It is NOT the definitive guide to the Connecticut witch trials as another reviewer said but rather a coffee table version with tidbits about the history here and there. For example, many details and dates about specific cases were not conveyed even though the information is available. The organization of the book does not lend itself to be a definitive guide. An example of this is the way the author conveys information about the Hartford Witch Panic. The reader has to go through different chapters to find the complete picture of what happened during those trials. If you're looking for an academic study and a more complete guide, it's best to stick with classics such as John Metcalf Taylor's book *The Witchcraft Delusion in Colonial Connecticut* or R G Tomlinson's *Witchcraft Trials of Connecticut: The First Comprehensive Documented History of Witchcraft Trials in Colonial Connecticut*.

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