

**Noone o' thaim
witches**



With thanks to my supervisor Andrew for his help,
my mum for listening to my info dumps and giving her help and support,
and my friends for being there throughout everything.

This comic discusses themes of torture, violence against women
and death.



twitter.com/CaitlynComics



www.artstation.com/caitlyn-comics/profiles



caitlyn-comics-honors.tumblr.com





A coven of witches in Tranent were suspected of organising a plot to kill the King in recent storms ...

Geillis Duncan, a teenage maid servant, was investigated and a "Devil's mark" was found on her neck.



AH'LL TELL YE
AATHING!



Geillis was tortured which included "thrawing" and the use of thumbscrews. Most torture victims broke within hours. Geillis confessed to being a witch and began to name those who aided her.



One of those named was Agnes Sampson. A widow with children, she was a well known "cunning woman" in the community.



She was known as the
"wyse wyff of Keith".

AYE, AH CONFESS!
A'M A WITCH!



She was brought before
the King ...



... and was similarly tortured until
she confessed.

Halloween -



Agnes claimed that she and several other witches sailed to North Berwick to meet with Satan who ordered them to kill the King.

The North Berwick case is unusual for most cases in the witch trials as members of the gentry were accused, rivals used the panic and paranoia for revenge and to improve their positions.



One upper class lady who fell victim to these accusations was Barbara Napier.

Like many in Scotland, she had once used the services of a witch - usually for love spells, healing or ways to ward off evil.



IT WISNI ME!
A'M INNOCENT!

This was enough evidence to seal her fate.

The North Berwick witch trials ran for two years with at least 70 arrests made for witchcraft and treason.



The case would influence all future witch trials in Scotland, with King James writing a textbook for future witch finders called "Daemonologie."



WITCH!

Was your area affected?



Scotland would continue on to have five different major panics across the country, until 1662. It is estimated that more than 1,500* innocent victims were killed to this miscarriage of justice. Most of the names of these victims are lost to time, with only a few very rare monuments memorialising this dark part of Scottish history.



The Witches of Scotland Campaign was launched on International Women's Day 2020 by Claire Mitchell QC and Zoe Venditozzi. The campaign set off with the goals of; obtain a **pardon** for those convicted of witchcraft, obtain an **apology** for those accused of witchcraft and to obtain a **national memorial** to remember those killed. There are more than 1,104 supporters of the campaign.




Zoe Venditozzi



Claire Mitchell QC

On the 8th of March 2022, International Women's Day, the First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon issued a **formal apology** to those convicted of witchcraft under the **Witchcraft Act of 1563**. This, alongside the Scottish Government's acknowledgment and response to the **petition** in March of 2021, marks an important step in **raising awareness** of historical wrongs in our country's history that should be addressed.



"Firstly, acknowledging injustice, no matter how historic, is important.

This parliament has issued, rightly so, formal apologies and pardons for the more recent historic injustices suffered by gay men and miners.

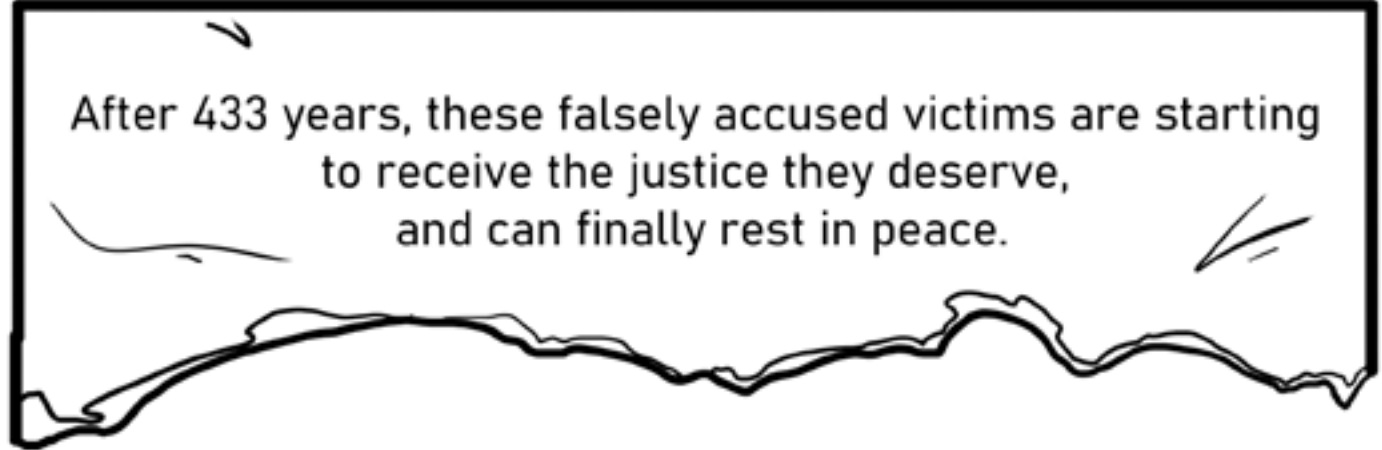
Second, for some, this is not yet historic.

There are parts of our world where even today, women and girls face persecution and sometimes death because they have been accused of witchcraft.

And thirdly, fundamentally, while here in Scotland the Witchcraft Act may have been consigned to history a long time ago, the deep misogyny that motivated it has not.

We live in that still.

Today it expresses itself not in claims of witchcraft, but in everyday harassment, online rape threats and sexual violence."



After 433 years, these falsely accused victims are starting to receive the justice they deserve, and can finally rest in peace.

Glossary

- "Devil's Mark" - It was believed that witches made a pact with the Devil, renouncing their baptismal name. The witch would be given a new name, sealed by a kiss by the Devil which would leave a mark - a blemish which would not hurt or bleed when pricked with a needle.
- "Thumbscrews" - An instrument of torture where the vice would be screwed tight, crushing fingers and toes between two metal bars.
- "Thrawing" - A torture method where rope is twisted and tightened round the victim's head.
- "Cunning Woman" - A woman who practices traditional folk medicine.
- "Pardon" - A Government decision to allow a person to be relieved of some or all of the legal consequences resulting from a criminal conviction. A pardon may be granted before or after conviction for the crime, depending on the laws

Scots Language

- "Noone" - old Scots, "none".
- "Thaim" - Scots, "them".
- "Aathing" - Scots, "everything".
- "Wyse" - old Scots, "wise".
- "Wyff" - old Scots, "wife".
- "Keyth" - old Scots, "Keith".
- "Wisni" - old Scots, "wasn't, was not".

Campaign Information

You can support the Witches of Scotland campaign by signing and sharing the petition and following the campaign on twitter and instagram.

witchesofscotland.com

twitter.com/witchesofscottl

instagram.com/witches.of.scotland/

Sources and further information

witches.shca.ed.ac.uk/

witches.is.ed.ac.uk

www.raws.scot/

engole.info/agnes-sampson/

engole.info/barbara-napier-witch/

engole.info/geillis-duncan-witch/

"Where are the Women?" by Sara Sheridan

BBC Radio Scotland - "Witch Hunt"

BBC Radio 4 - "The Witch's Pardon"

When two storms affect the return of King James I and his new bride to Scotland in 1589, paranoid rumours begin to speculate of a plot to kill the King ...
through a pact with the Devil.

Paranoia, fear and revenge seals the fate of three innocent women in one of Scotland's own witch trials.

Scotland's witchcraft panic began in 1563, with the creation of the Witchcraft Act, and lasted until 1736 when the act was repealed. Between then Scotland participated in five "great Scottish witch-hunts" and a series of nationwide trials.

More than 1,500 innocent victims lost their lives to this miscarriage of justice.

"Noone o' thaim witches" summaries the rise of witch hunts across Scotland from it's beginning in North Berwick and the main accused to visually show a part of our history that should be acknowledged.

Inspired by the campaign for a legal pardon for the women accused by "Witches of Scotland".