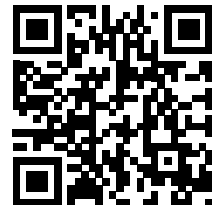


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Matthew Hopkins' Trials



Matthew Hopkins was a well-known figure in the _____ of the English witch trials. In the 1640s, he claimed to be the Witchfinder _____, a title he gave himself. Hopkins operated during a time of great _____ and superstition. Many people believed in witches and their powers. Hopkins took advantage of this _____ to gain influence and make money. He traveled across eastern England, identifying and prosecuting supposed _____. His methods were often brutal and unfair.

Hopkins used techniques like _____ deprivation and the "swimming" test. In the swimming test, accused witches were thrown into _____. If they floated, it meant they were guilty because they were supposedly rejecting _____. If they sank, they were innocent, but many people drowned. Hopkins also looked for physical _____ like moles or scars, which he called "witch marks." These marks were thought to be proof that a _____ had made a pact with the devil.

Hopkins' activities led to the execution of about 300 _____, mostly women. His witch hunts created a climate of fear and suspicion. Communities were torn apart as _____ accused each other of witchcraft. The trials often relied on dubious _____ and forced confessions. Many people confessed to being witches under _____, even though they were innocent.

Eventually, public opinion turned against Hopkins. People began to question his _____ and motives. He was accused of being more interested in profit than justice. In 1647, his _____ ended, and he died soon after, possibly from tuberculosis. Despite his short career, Hopkins left a lasting _____ on the history of witch trials in England. His actions highlighted the dangers of superstition and the abuse of _____.

- fear
- power
- person
- impact
- evidence
- history
- baptism
- water
- people
- torture
- fear
- sleep
- methods
- neighbors
- evidence
- General
- witches
- career