

Connecticut 'witches' exonerated by Senate lawmakers

Connecticut lawmakers have voted to exonerate 12 people more than 370 years after they were convicted of witchcraft in colonial America. Eleven of the 12 were hanged after trials that the state Senate now acknowledges were a "miscarriage of justice". It follows a long-running campaign by descendants to clear the names of those wrongfully accused of being witches. On Thursday, Connecticut's Senate voted 33-1 to exonerate those convicted in trials that took place in the state in the mid-to-late 1600s. The resolution had already passed in Connecticut's House of Representatives, with 121 votes in favour and 30 against. The resolution follows nearly two decades of lobbying by the CT Witch Trial Exoneration Project, a group set up in 2005 by descendants of the accused.

At least 45 people were accused of witchcraft in colonial Connecticut, although the Witch Trial Exoneration Project believes the record is likely incomplete.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-65724066>

27.5.23 By Bernd Debusmann Jr BBC News, Washington

USA: 12 verurteilte "Hexen" freigesprochen

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New York — Der US-Bundesstaat Connecticut hat 12 Frauen, die im kolonialen US-Amerika vor fast 400 Jahren der Hexerei angeklagt waren, nach einer Kampagne zur Klärung ihrer Namen freigesprochen.

Elf der angeklagten Hexen wurden nach Prozessen im nordöstlichen Bundesstaat Connecticut Mitte des 16. Jahrhunderts gehängt, wobei eine von ihnen begnadigt wurde.

Die Gesetzgeber des Neuengland-Staates verabschiedeten am Donnerstag eine Resolution, in der sie ihre Unschuld beteuern und den Tod der neun Frauen und zwei Männer als "Justizirrtum" verurteilen.

<https://www.wochenblitz.com/news/ausland/usa-12-verurteilte-hexen-freigesprochen>