

Chawton House Library Fellow's Lecture 17th March 2009

'Witches, Welshwomen and Whores?': Explaining the Massacre of the Royalist Women at Naseby.

Professor Mark Stoyle, University of Southampton

In the wake of their victory at Battle of Naseby in June 1645, the Roundhead cavalry launched a savage attack on the female camp-followers of the Royalist army: killing over a hundred of them and mutilating many more. The lecture considers the chief theories which have been put forward by historians to explain the massacre, and will explore new theories, concentrating, in particular, on the way that Parliamentarian pamphleteers had helped to pave the way for the atrocity over the preceding years by portraying the king's camp-followers as a mob of murderous, knife-wielding 'Irish and Welsh-women'. While the massacre was primarily explicable in terms of xenophobia, anti-popery and a thirst for revenge for previous massacres which had allegedly been committed by 'Celtic' women against the English – fear of witchcraft may also have played its part in hardening the Parliamentarian soldiers' hearts against the fleeing Royalist women whom they killed and maimed on that bloody June day.



Lecture Tickets: £10 & £7.50 for friends/students (includes wine)

6.30pm Reception with wine

7.00pm Lecture



To book, or for more info, call 01420 541010
Or email info@chawton.net.

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