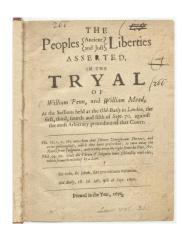
A SHAM TRIAL



- 0. A SHAM TRIAL Story Preface
- 1. A BOGUS CHARGE
- 2. A SHAM TRIAL
- 3. A SHOCKING VERDICT
- 4. JURORS GO TO PRISON
- 5. EDWARD BUSHELL HOLDS FIRM
- 6. PENN'S LAWS



When a jury of his peers acquitted him of wrongdoing in a trial at London's Old Bailey, the Judges disagreed with the verdict. When the court tried to nullify the verdict, Penn invoked <u>the Magna Carta</u>. He called from the dock: "It is intolerable that my Jury should be thus menaced; Is this according to the fundamental Laws? Are not they my proper Judges by the great Charter of England?"

Thereafter, when the dust had settled, Penn published a transcript of his trial. He called attention to the ancient liberties which the *Magna Carta* afforded to people in England. Image online via the British Library which maintains a copy of Penn's trial record.

Twelve men from the City of London were selected as jurors.

Ten judges, including the Lord Mayor of London, made up the court.

Because Penn <u>published</u> the <u>trial transcript</u>, in 1670, we have a good record of events. Things did not go as the court planned.

The judges thought trial would be a simple, one-issue case: Did William Penn preach at Grace Church? If the answer was yes (and the facts were clear - he did), the case was over. The "Conventicle Act" proscribed the rest of the story. If he preached then he CAUSED a "tumultuous assembly" by application of the law.

As it happened, however, Penn's jury didn't like the law. And ... they did not like how the court treated Penn during the trial.

Upset with Penn's deft ability at <u>questioning the judges</u> on points of <u>common law</u>, the court locked Penn in the "bale dock." The jury could *hear*, but no longer *see*, Penn during the trial.

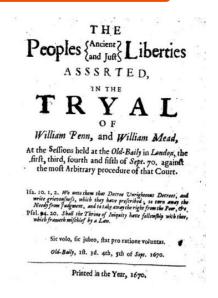
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-SHAM-TRIAL-Penn-William-Jury-Goes-to-Prison

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-SHAM-TRIAL-Penn-William-Jury-Goes-to-Prison

Media Stream



Transcript of Penn's Trial

Image online, courtesy Google Books.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Transcript-of-Penn-s-Trial