

# Records Of The Salem Witch Hunt

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publisher description

discusses the witchcraft trials in salem in 1692 the events leading up to them and how the trials have been viewed by different historians since then

salem witchcraft will always have a magnetic pull on the american psyche during the 1692 witch trials more than 150 people were arrested an estimated 25 million americans including author diane foulds are descended from the twenty individuals executed what happened to our ancestors death in salem is the first book to take a clear eyed look at this complex time by examining the lives of the witch trial participants from a personal perspective massachusetts settlers led difficult lives every player in the salem drama endured hardships barely imaginable today mercy short one of the bewitched girls watched as indians butchered her parents puritan minister cotton mather outlived all but three of his fifteen children such tragedies shaped behavior and as foulds argues ultimately played a part in the witch hunt s outcome a compelling who s who to salem witchcraft death in salem profiles each of these historical personalities as it asks why was this person targeted

providing an accessible and comprehensive overview the story of the salem witch trials

explores the events between june 10 and september 22 1692 when nineteen people were hanged one was pressed to death and over 150 were jailed for practicing witchcraft in salem massachusetts this book explores the history of that event and provides a synthesis of the most recent scholarship on the subject it places the trials into the context of the great european witch hunt and relates the events of 1692 to witch hunting throughout seventeenth century new england now in a third edition this book has been updated to include an expanded section on the european origins of witch hunts an updated and expanded epilogue which discusses the witch hunts real and imagined historical and cultural since 1692 and an extensive bibliography this complex and difficult subject is covered in a uniquely accessible manner that captures all the drama that surrounded the salem witch trials from beginning to end the reader is carried along by the author s powerful narration and mastery of the subject while covering the subject in impressive detail bryan le beau maintains a broad perspective on the events and wherever possible lets the historical characters speak for themselves le beau highlights the decisions made by individuals responsible for the trials that helped turn what might have been a minor event into a crisis that has held the imagination of students of american history this third edition of the story of the salem witch trials is essential for students and scholars alike who are interested in women s and gender history colonial american history and early modern history

historian peter charles hoffer reexamines a notorious episode in american history and presents many of its legal details in true perspective for the first time hoffer also shows how rights we take for granted today did not exist in colonial times and he demonstrates how these cases relate to current instances of children accusing adults of abuse

between june 10 and september 22 1692 nineteen people were hanged for practicing witchcraft in salem massachusetts one person was pressed to death and over 150 others were jailed where still others died the story of the salem witch trials is a history of that event it provides a much needed synthesis of the most recent scholarship on the subject places the trials into the context of the great european witch hunt and relates the events of 1692 to witch hunting throughout seventeenth century new england this complex and difficult subject is covered in a uniquely accessible manner that captures all the drama that surrounded the salem witch trials from beginning to end the reader is carried along by the author s powerful narration and mastery of the subject while covering the subject in impressive detail bryan le beau maintains a broad perspective on events and wherever possible lets the historical characters speak for themselves le beau highlights the decisions made by individuals responsible for the trials that helped turn what might have been a minor event into a crisis that has held the imagination of students of american history

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in the spring of 1692 girls in salem massachusetts accused several local women of witchcraft the events that followed were marked by mass hysteria and religious extremism and ultimately led to trials convictions executions and many more accusations

mass hysteria in the late 17th century led to trials of people suspected to be witches in salem massachusetts anyone could be accused of causing mysterious maladies or unfortunate occurrences such as the death of cattle readers discover important facts and captivating details about this fascinating time in american history the dangers of leveling accusations without proof and succumbing to panic are discussed in this engaging text which is supplemented with a fact filled timeline full color photographs and primary sources

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massachusetts 1692 the largest witch hunt in the united states was held in the small village of salem massachusetts witness the accusations of witchcraft and trial that followed in this

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salem story engages the story of the salem witch trials by contrasting an analysis of the surviving primary documentation with the way events of 1692 have been mythologised by our culture resisting the temptation to explain the salem witch trials in the context of an inclusive theoretical framework the book examines a variety of individual motives that converged to precipitate the witch hunt of the many assumptions about the salem witch trials the most persistent is that they were instigated by a circle of hysterical girls through an analysis of what actually happened by perusal of the primary materials with the close reading approach of a literary critic a different picture emerges one where hysteria inappropriately describes the logical rational strategies of accusation and confession followed by the accusers males and females alike

the salem witch trials stand as one of the infamous moments in colonial american history more than 150 people primarily women from 24 communities were charged with witchcraft 19 were hanged and others died in prison in his introduction to this compact yet comprehensive volume richard godbeer explores the beliefs fears and historical context that fueled the witch panic of 1692 the documents in this collection illuminate how the puritans worldview led them to seek a supernatural explanation for the problems vexing their community presented as case studies the carefully chosen records from several specific trials offer a clear picture of the gender norms and social tensions that underlie the witchcraft accusations the final documents cover recantations of confessions the aftermath of the witch hunt and statements of regret a chronology of the witchcraft crisis questions for consideration and a selected bibliography round out the book's pedagogical support

what caused the worst witch hunt in u.s. history what demons sent twenty innocent people to their deaths was it panic payback puritanism run amok in this probing short form book award winning journalist bruce watson captures all the fear and fear mongering while exploring the latest historical research into this unforgettable american tragedy

this book looks beyond single factor interpretations to offer a far more nuanced view of why the salem witch hunt spiraled out of control rather than assigning blame to a single perpetrator ray assembles portraits of several major characters each of whom had complex motives for accusing his or her neighbors in this way he reveals how religious social political and legal factors all played a role in the drama

decades before the salem witch trials 11 people were hanged as witches in the connecticut river valley the advent of witch hunting in new england was directly influenced by the english civil war and the witch trials in england led by matthew hopkins who pioneered techniques for examining witches this history examines the outbreak of witch hysteria in the valley focusing on accusations of demonic possession apotropaic magic and the role of the clergy although

the hysteria was eventually quelled by a progressive magistrate unwilling to try witches accounts of the trials later influenced contemporary writers during the salem witch hunts the source of the document grounds for examination of a witch is identified

uses primary source documents narrative and illustrations to recount the history of the witch hunt and trials that occurred in salem massachusetts in the seventeenth century

this fascinating account of the salem witch trials explores their religious social and political dimensions their origins their critics and their aftermath as well as their influence on the american cultural imagination to the present day

the result of a perfect storm of factors that culminated in a great moral catastrophe the salem witch trials of 1692 took a breathtaking toll on the young english colony of massachusetts over 150 people were imprisoned and nineteen men and women including a minister were executed by hanging the colonial government which was responsible for initiating the trials eventually repudiated the entire affair as a great delusion of the devil in satan and salem benjamin ray looks beyond single factor interpretations to offer a far more nuanced view of why the salem witch hunt spiraled out of control rather than assigning blame to a single perpetrator ray assembles portraits of several major characters each of whom had complex motives for accusing his or her neighbors in this way he reveals how religious social political and legal factors all played a role in the drama ray s historical database of court records documents and maps yields a unique analysis of the geographic spread of accusations and trials ultimately showing how the witch hunt resulted in the execution of so many people far more than any comparable episode on this side of the atlantic in addition to the print volume satan and salem will also be available as a linked e book offering the reader the opportunity to investigate firsthand the primary sources and maps on which ray s groundbreaking argument rests learn more at satanandsalem.org

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