THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS OF 1692

BY BOB PUTNAM
SAID TO BE A SKETCH OF MY 9th G-GRANDMOTHER SUSANNAH NORTH MARTIN, READING HER BIBLE IN JAIL JUST PRIOR TO HER HANGING ON JULY 19, 1692.
BOB PUTNAM TO SUSANNAH MARTIN

SUSANNAH NORTH MARTIN - GEORGE MARTIN
JANE MARTIN - SAMUEL HADLEY
SAMUEL HADLEY Jr. - DOROTHY COLBY
MARTHA HADLEY - PHILIP SARGENT Sr.
PHILIP SARGENT Jr. - HANNAH HADLEY
JOSEPH SARGENT - SUSAN
NOAH SARGENT - LUCINDA ROBERTS
BETHIA SARGENT - NATHAN PRESCOTT
EBENEZER PRESCOTT - JOSEPHINE WEBSTER
BERTHA PRESCOTT - WILLIAM BENJAMIN
EVELYN BENJAMIN - ALLAN PUTNAM
BOB PUTNAM - JANET MCDONALD
THE SALEM VILLAGE CHURCH COVENANT
WITH REV. SAMUEL PARRIS

MY 6TH GREAT GRANDFATHER & GRANDMOTHER
“THE CRUCIBLE”

WINONA RYDER AND DANIEL DAY-LEWIS 1996

ARTHUR MILLER - 1953
OVERLY DRAMATIC ILLUSTRATIONS?

REPORTEDLY, MARY WOLCOTT’S SWOON
HOW MANY ILLUSTRATIONS?
HOW MANY BOOKS AND PLAYS?

WIKIPEDIA LISTS THE "TOP 92 BOOKS ON SALEM"!!!!!!

.....THERE MAY BE 1000'S
“HANGINGS” WERE NOT WHAT YOU THINK

ETCHING SHOWING ANNE HIBBINS’ EXECUTION IN BOSTON 1656
HUNG AT SALEM (19)

JUNE 10: BRIDGET BISHOP
JULY 19: SARAH WILDS
SARAH GOOD
ELIZABETH HOW
SUSANNAH MARTIN
REBECCA NURSE
AUGUST 19: JOHN WILLARD
REV. GEORGE BURROUGHS
MARTHA CARRIER
GEORGE JACOBS Sr.
JOHN PROCTOR Sr.

Sept 22: MARTHA CORY
MARY ESTY
ALICE PARKER
MARY PARKER
ANN PUDEATER
WILMOT REDD
MARGARET SCOTT
SAMUEL WARDELL

THE 25 WHO DIED

DIED IN JAIL (5)

CHILD OF SARAH GOOD (SALEM)

SARAH OSBOURNE (SALEM)

ROGER TOOTHAKER
(BILLERICA)

ANN FOSTER (ANDOVER)

LYDIA DASTIN (READING)

DIED UNDER TORTURE

GILES CORY
THE MEMORIAL GARDEN IN SALEM, MA
IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN, SALEM, MA

SUSANNAH MARTIN
HANGED
JULY 19, 1692
On this ledge in 1692
19 innocents were hanged for
accusations of witchcraft
Salem Courthouse stood in the middle of what is now Washington Street.
PREMISES

• **NONE** OF THOSE EXECUTED IN SALEM WERE WITCHES
• **NO** WITCHCRAFT WAS BEING PRACTISED IN SALEM
• THE AGE OF REASON WAS FIRMLY UNDERWAY
• A MAJORITY OF POPULATION DISBELIEVED WITCHCRAFT BY 1692
• A MINORITY STILL, VAGUELY, HELD TO MEDIEVAL IDEAS
• THE NEW ENGLAND CHURCH WAS NO HELP
• THE FEW, THE BRAVE, THE TRUE CHRISTIANS, STOOD AGAINST THE TRIALS
3) “The Devil in Massachusetts” by Marion Starkey (1949)
5) ”The Putnams of Salem Village” by Harold Putnam (1996)
6) “Witchcraft at Salem” by Chadwick Hansen (1969)
7) Family oral traditions.
HYPOTHESES

TRIALS AROSE FROM AND WERE FUELED BY FAMILY FEUDS

ACCUSATIONS & BIZARRE BEHAVIOR OF THE "AFFLICTED" WERE PARTIALLY ERGOT POISONING

OUR LESSON:  REACTIONARY, SUPERSTITIOUS, MYTH CAN BE DEADLY WHEN REASONING, TRULY PIOUS, PEOPLE REMAIN SILENT.
“GEOGRAPHY”

SALEM

BOSTON

PLYMOUTH
NEW VILLAGE CHURCH OK’ED 1672

SALEM VILLAGE

IPSWICH ROAD

SALEM TOWN

2 MILES

“GEOGRAPHY”
“CONTEXT”
WERE THE SALEM EXECUTIONS OF 1692 THE ONLY EXECUTIONS OF WITCHES IN COLONIAL AMERICA?
NO!
<table>
<thead>
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<th>DECADE</th>
<th># OF CASES (135)</th>
<th>CONVICTIONS (20)</th>
<th>EXECUTIONS (14)</th>
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<td>1680’S</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>1690’S</td>
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**OTHER NEW ENGLAND CASES 1638 – 1697**

NOT COUNTING SALEM
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>All Others</th>
<th>Salem 1692</th>
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<td>Accusations</td>
<td>135</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indictments</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Executions</td>
<td>14</td>
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1638 TO 1691 RELATIVE TO SALEM 1692

NEW ENGLAND
“CONTEXT” – A LITTLE TIMELINE

• 1638 – SALEM TOWN FORMED (INCLUDES LAND LATER CALLED ‘VILLAGE’)

• 1666 – MEMBERS OF TOWN CHURCH PETITION FOR VILLAGE CHURCH

• 1672 – VILLAGERS’ CHURCH APPROVED & MINISTER #1

• 1680 – MINISTER #2

• 1684 – MINISTER #3

• 1689 – MINISTER #4 - **SAMUEL PARRIS**
PUTNAM VS PORTER “BITTERS”

• JOHN PUTNAM SR. + ISRAEL PORTER AMONG FIRST SETTLERS OF “SALEM FARMS” IN 1640’S

• BOTH FAMILIES WERE RIVALS, FROM BEGINNING

• BOTH FAMILIES FILLED “TOWN SELECTMEN” SEATS

• BOTH FAMILIES PROMINENT ON CHURCH BOARD

• BY 1690 PORTERS PROSPERING, PUTNAMS DIMINISHING
HOW DID REV. PARRIS FIT IN?

- Salem town had only one church
- 1666: the village asked for their own
- 1672: village got their church
- Factions had formed – Putnams vs Porters
- 1689: fourth pastor of village was Rev. Parris
- The Putnams, mostly, sided with Parris
- The Porters, mostly, were anti-Parris

"The Feud"
NEW VILLAGE CHURCH OK’ED 1672

SALEM VILLAGE

SALEM TOWN

2 MILES

IPSWICH ROAD

“GEOGRAPHY”
PUTNAM vs. PUTNAM / PORTER

THOMAS PUTNAM (1615-1686) 2\textsuperscript{nd} m. 1666

MARY VEREN

THOMAS AND MARY HAD ONE SON

JOSEPH b. 1669

THE NEXT 3 PAIRS OF SLIDES TELL THE TALE

4 SONS AND 6 DAUGHTERS, INCLUDING DAUGHTER

ANN b. 1679

THOMAS JR.

MARRIED ANN CARR IN 1678

4TH CHILD

ANN HOLYOKE (m. 1643)
1ST: THOMAS Jr. EXPECTED TO INHERIT A 1/3 SHARE OF THE HUGE ESTATE FROM ANN CARR’S PARENTS,

BUT,

WAS CUT OUT ENTIRELY BY ANN’S 3 SIBLINGS
THOMAS PUTNAM (1615-1686) 2ND m. 1666 MARY VEREN

THOMAS AND MARY HAD ONE SON JOSEPH b. 1669

4 SONS AND 6 DAUGHTERS, INCLUDING DAUGHTER ANN b. 1679

THE NEXT 3 SLIDES TELL THE TALE
2nd: Thomas Jr. then expected to inherit a large portion of his own father's estate

but,

was pushed aside by half-brother Joseph Putnam, and step-mother Mary.
PUTNAM vs. PUTNAM / PORTER

THOMAS PUTNAM (1615-1686) 2nd m. 1666

Mary Veren

Thomas and Mary had one son

Joseph b. 1669

The next 3 slides tell the tale

Thomas Jr.

Married Ann Carr in 1678

4th child

4 sons and 6 daughters, including daughter

Ann b. 1679

Ann Holyoke (m. 1643)
3rd: THEN JOSEPH MARRIED, OF ALL PEOPLE (!!!!), ELIZABETH PORTER, IN 1690 AND IMMEDIATELY BECAME THE 2nd RICHEST MAN IN SALEM.
THEN..... CAME FEBRUARY 1692

• CAPOREAL: THE ‘91 RYE CROP ‘BADLY’ CONTAMINATED WITH ERGOT.
• BY JANUARY MOST BREADS INFECTED: CONVULSIVE ERGOTISM. MOST SUSCEPTIBLE: TEENAGED FEMALES.
• THE SALEM POLITICAL FACTIONS HAD CONTINUED – AND IN FACT HAD WORSENED
• THE VILLAGE CHURCH FACTIONS HAD ALSO WORSENED AS A RESULT OF REV. PARRIS’ CONFRONTATIONS.
HOW DID REV. PARRIS FIT IN AGAIN?

- PUTNAMS SUPPORTED PARRIS FROM 1689 ONWARD
- PORTERS OPPOSED PARRIS FROM 1689 ONWARD
- PARRIS AGGRAVATED THE FUEDING
- **DAUGHTER BETTY & NIECE ABIGAIL** 1ST “AFFLICTED”
- HIS SERVANT **TITUBA** URGED THE GIRLS ON
- ACCUSATIONS OF “WITCHCRAFT” IN FEBRUARY BEGAN IN PARRIS’ HOUSE
- ARRESTS BEGAN IN MARCH
IN FEBRUARY BEGAN THE ‘AFFLICTIONS’:

• JANUARY- **TITUBA**, BEGAN AMUSING A GROUP OF GIRLS WITH “LITTLE SORCERIES”, AND HER ‘MAGIC’ FROM THE WEST INDIES.

• FEBRUARY - SOME GIRLS BEGAN EXHIBITING – ODD POSTURES – RIDICULOUS SPEECHES – “JOYFUL EXHUBERANCES” – AND…….. **FITS.**
AND THEN…

• WHEN Betty Parris (9) and Abigail Williams (11, in Parris’ household) WERE AFFECTED IN LATE FEB:
• THEY WERE ASKED: WERE THEY BEWITCHED?
• FEBRUARY 29: THREE women accused by the girls of witchcraft were arrested: Sarah Goode, Sarah Osborne and Tituba, Parris’ servant.
FEBRUARY – “ACCUSATIONS”

IN THE END, OVER 35 “ACCUSERS”

THE INITIAL “AFFLICTED GIRLS”

1) BETTY PARRIS
2) ABIGAIL WILLIAMS
3) MARY WOLCOTT

Elizabeth Booth
Sarah Churchill
Elizabeth Hubbard
Mercy Lewis
Ann Putnam, Jr. = THE ONLY ONE KNOWN TO HAVE ‘RECANTED’
Susanna Sheldon
Mary Warren

ONE WAS QUOTED IN MARCH: “SHE DID IT FOR SPORT. WE MUST HAVE SOME SPORT”
A TELLTALE PATTERN EMERGES - FROM BOYER AND NISSENBAUM

- PLOT THE ANTI-PARRIS AND PRO-PARRIS FAMILIES

- THEY SEPARATE INTO THREE REGIONS
ANOTHER TELLLTALE PATTERN

A = ACCUSER
W = ACCUSED WITCH
D = DEFENDER
AFTER THE LAST EXECUTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 22:

THE TRIALS ENDED DUE TO GOVERNOR SIR WILLIAM PHIPPS’ ORDER

(PHIPPS’ WIFE HAD JUST THEN BEEN ACCUSED OF WITCHCRAFT)

IN OCTOBER GOV. PHIPPS DISSOLVED THE COURT

JANUARY 1693, PHIPPS ORDERED A NEW COURT; FREEING 40 PRISONERS IMMEDIATELY

IN MAY 1693 PHIPPS RELEASED REMAINING 100+
THE HEROES: DEFENDERS

- SPOUSES OF ACCUSED
- FRIENDS OF ACCUSED
- JUDGE NAT. SALTONSTALL
- JOSEPH PUTNAM & ALLIES
- JUROR CALEB BOYNTON
- “REFUSING” MAGISTRATES
HYPOTHESES

TRIALS AROSE FROM AND WERE FUELED BY FAMILY FEUDS

ACCUSATIONS & BIZARRE BEHAVIOR OF THE "AFFLICTED" WERE, PARTIALLY, ERGOT POISONING
REACTIONARY, SUPERSTITIOUS, MYTH CAN BE DEADLY

WHENEVER

REASONING, GENUINELY PIOUS, PEOPLE REMAIN SILENT.
THE END? .....IT IS NEVER

"THE END"

SO LONG AS BLIND OR WILLFUL IGNORANCE IS ALLOWED TO SUPERCEDE REASON