

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

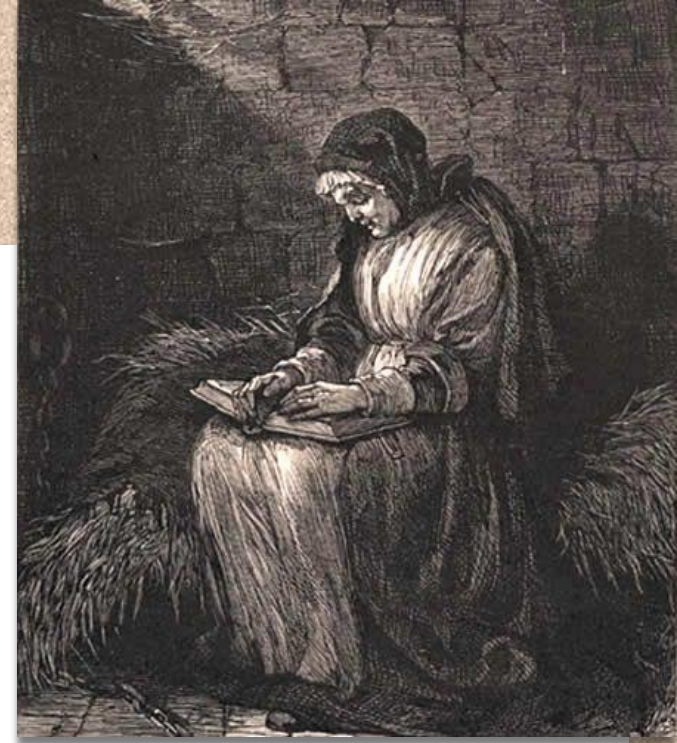
BETHIA SARGENT - NATHAN PRESCOTT

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

We resolve uprightly to study what is our duty, & to make it our grief, & reckon it our shame, whereinsoever we find our selves to come short in the discharge of it, & for pardon thereof to betake humbly to betake our selves to the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant.

And that we may keep this Covenant, & all the branches of it inviolable for ever, being sensible that we can do nothing of our selves,

We humbly implore the help & grace of our Mediator may be sufficient for us: Beseeching that whilst we are working out our own salvation, with fear & trembling, He would graciously work in us both to will, & to do. And that he being the Great Shepherd of our souls would lead us into the paths of Righteousness, for his own Names sake. And at length receive us all into the inheritance of the saints in Light.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Samuel Parris Pastor. | The women which embodied |
| 2. Nathanial Putnam | with us are by their severall |
| 3. <u>John Putnam</u> | Names as followeth Viz. |
| 4. Henry Wilkins 79. | 1. Eliza: (wife to Samuel Putnam) |
| 5. Joshua Rea: | 2. Sarah: (wife to John) Putman. |
| 6. Nathaniel Jones of 2 | 3. Anna (wife to Bray) Wilkins. |
| 7. Peter Clarys | 4. Sarah (wife to Joshua) Rea. |
| 8. Thomas Putnam | 5. Hannah (wife to Jno (junr.) Putman. |
| 9. John Putnam Junr | 6. Sarah (wife to Benj ^a) Putman |
| 10. Frederick Putnam | 7. Sarah Putman. |
| 11. Jonathan Putnam | 8. Deliverance Walcott |
| 12. Pontamir Putnam | 9. Peiray (wife to William) Way. |
| 13. Ezekiel Chubbuck | 10. Mary (wife to Sam.) Abbie. |
| 14. Henry Wilkins | |
| 15. Benj ^a Wilkins | |
| 16. William Way | |
| 17. Robert Smith | |
| 18. | |

Illi quorum nominibus hoc signum præfigitur
+ e vivis referunt.

MY 6TH GREAT
GRANDFATHER &
GRANDMOTHER

JOHN PUTNAM

Capt. JOHN PUTNAM

NATHANIEL PUTNAM

THOMAS PUTNAM

ELEAZER PUTNAM

JOSEPH PUTNAM

THOMAS PUTNAM, Jr.

HENRY PUTNAM

Gen. ISRAEL PUTNAM

ANN PUTNAM, Jr.

ROGER PUTNAM

EBENEZER PUTNAM

JOHN PUTNAM

ARTHUR PUTNAM

ALLAN PUTNAM

BOB PUTNAM

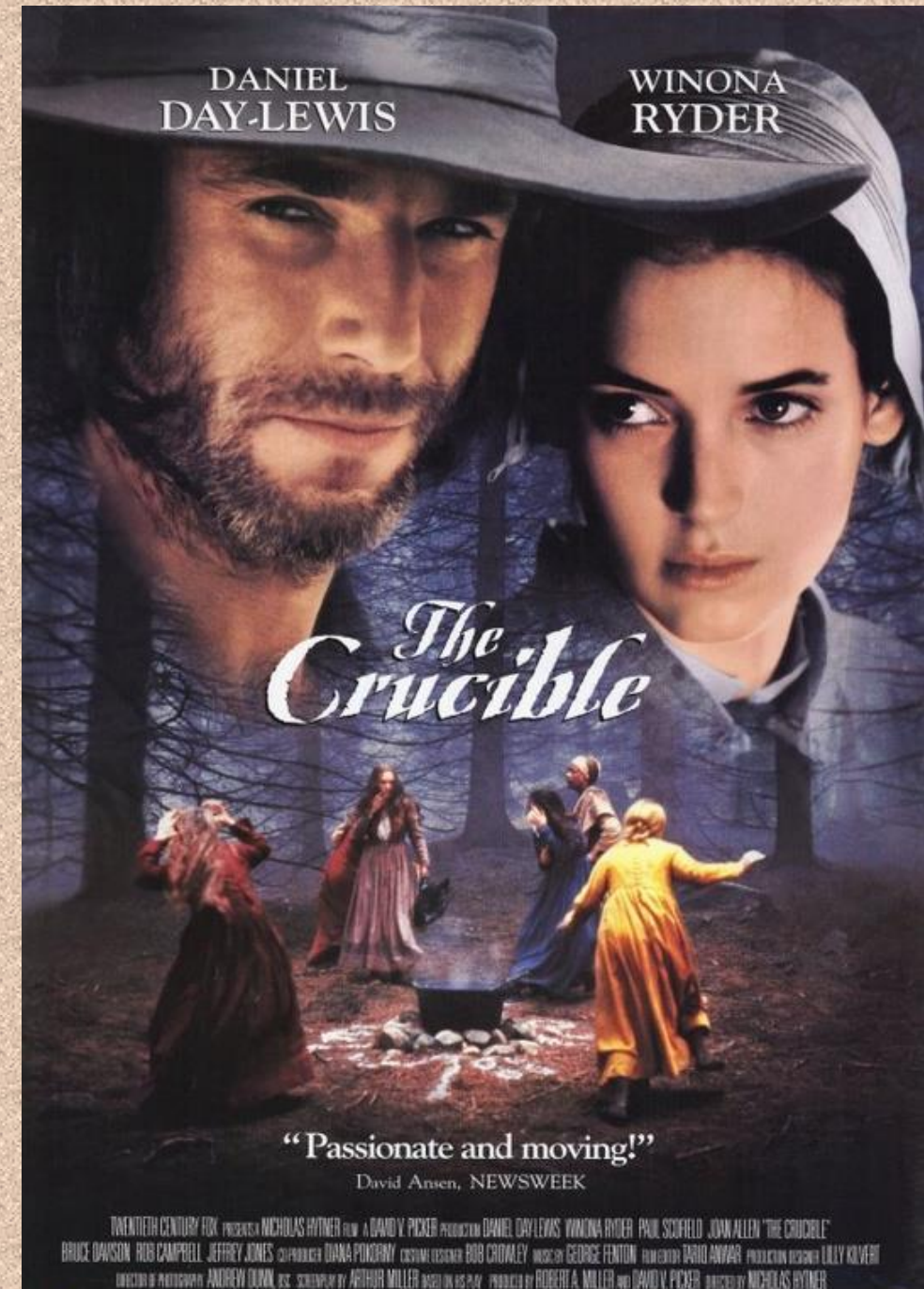




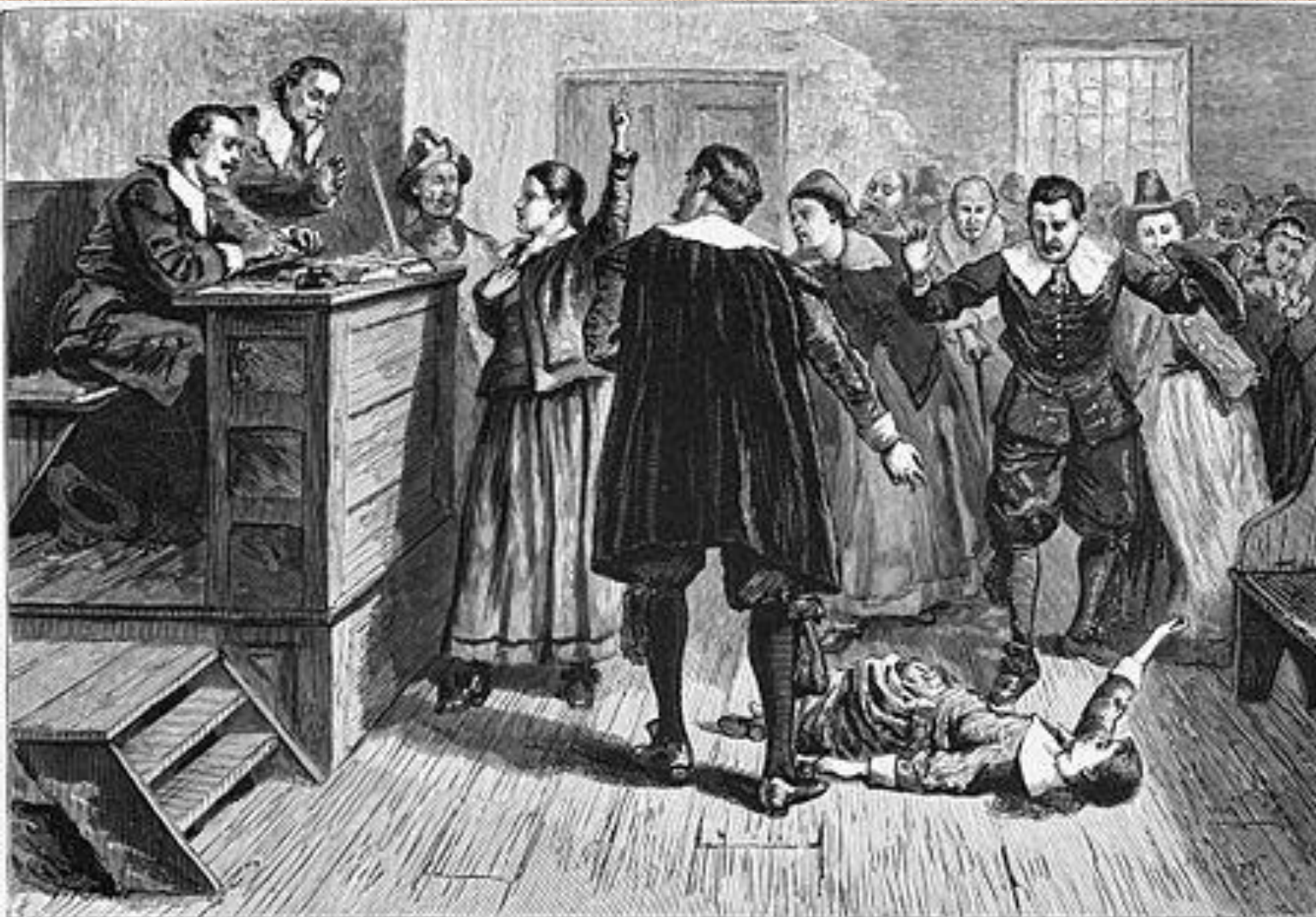
“THE CRUCIBLE”

**WINONA RYDER AND
DANIEL DAY-LEWIS 1996**

ARTHUR MILLER - 1953



OVERLY DRAMATIC ILLUSTRATIONS?

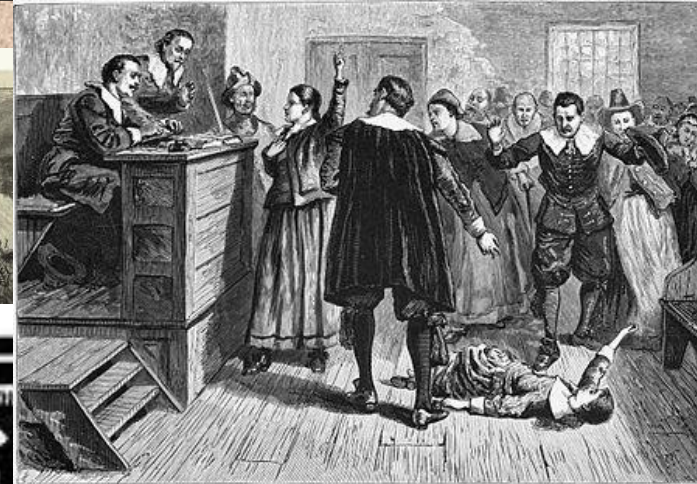


**REPORTEDLY,
MARY
WOLCOTT'S
SWOON**

HOW MANY ILLUSTRATIONS?



ARRESTING A WITCH.
HM July 1813 New



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



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**



SOURCES

- 1) ***“Salem Possessed”*** by Paul Boyer & Stephen Nissenbaum (1974)
- 2) Linda Caporeal ***“Ergotism: The Satan Loosed in Salem?”*** From *Science* Vol. 192 (2 April 1976)
- 3) ***“The Devil in Massachusetts”*** by Marion Starkey (1949)
- 4) ***“Entertaining Satan”*** by John Putnam Demos (1982)
- 5) ***“The Putnams of Salem Village”*** by Harold Putnam (1996)
- 6) ***“Witchcraft at Salem”*** by Chadwick Hansen (1969)
- 7) Family oral traditions.

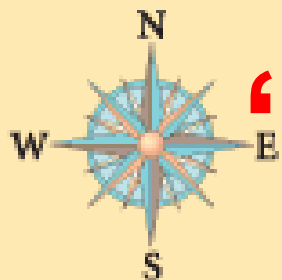


HYPOTHESES

**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

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

PENNACOOK

MASSACHUSET

Salem

Boston

Massachusetts
Bay

BOSTON

Massachusetts Bay Colony

MOHICAN

POCUMTUC

NIPMUC

Plymouth

**Plymouth
Colony**

NAUSET

Cape Cod
Bay

PLYMOUTH

WAMPANOAG

Buzzards Bay



“GEOGRAPHY”

NEW
VILLAGE
CHURCH
OK'ED
1672



“CONTEXT”

WERE THE SALEM EXECUTIONS OF 1692 THE

ONLY

EXECUTIONS OF WITCHES IN COLONIAL AMERICA?

NO!



OTHER NEW ENGLAND CASES 1638 – 1697

NOT COUNTING SALEM

DECADE	# OF CASES (135)	CONVICTIONS (20)	EXECUTIONS (14)
1630'S	1	0	0
1640'S	9	4	4
1650'S	40	8	6
1660'S	38	6	3
1670'S	13	0	0
1680'S	20	1	1
1690'S	14	1	0



1638 TO 1691 RELATIVE TO SALEM 1692

NEW ENGLAND

ALL OTHERS

SALEM 1692

• ACCUSATIONS

135

150+

• INDICTMENTS

20

94

• EXECUTIONS

14

19



“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”**



“GEOGRAPHY”




NEW
VILLAGE
CHURCH
OK'ED
1672



LAND HOLDINGS

PORTER

PUTNAM

- Key:
-  Putnam Lands
 -  Porter Lands
 -  Porter Mills



Map 6 Putnam and Porter Lands in the 1690's



JOHN PUTNAM

Capt. JOHN PUTNAM

NATHANIEL PUTNAM

THOMAS PUTNAM

ELEAZER PUTNAM

JOSEPH PUTNAM

THOMAS PUTNAM, Jr.

HENRY PUTNAM

Gen. ISRAEL PUTNAM

ANN PUTNAM, Jr.

ROGER PUTNAM

EBENEZER PUTNAM

JOHN PUTNAM

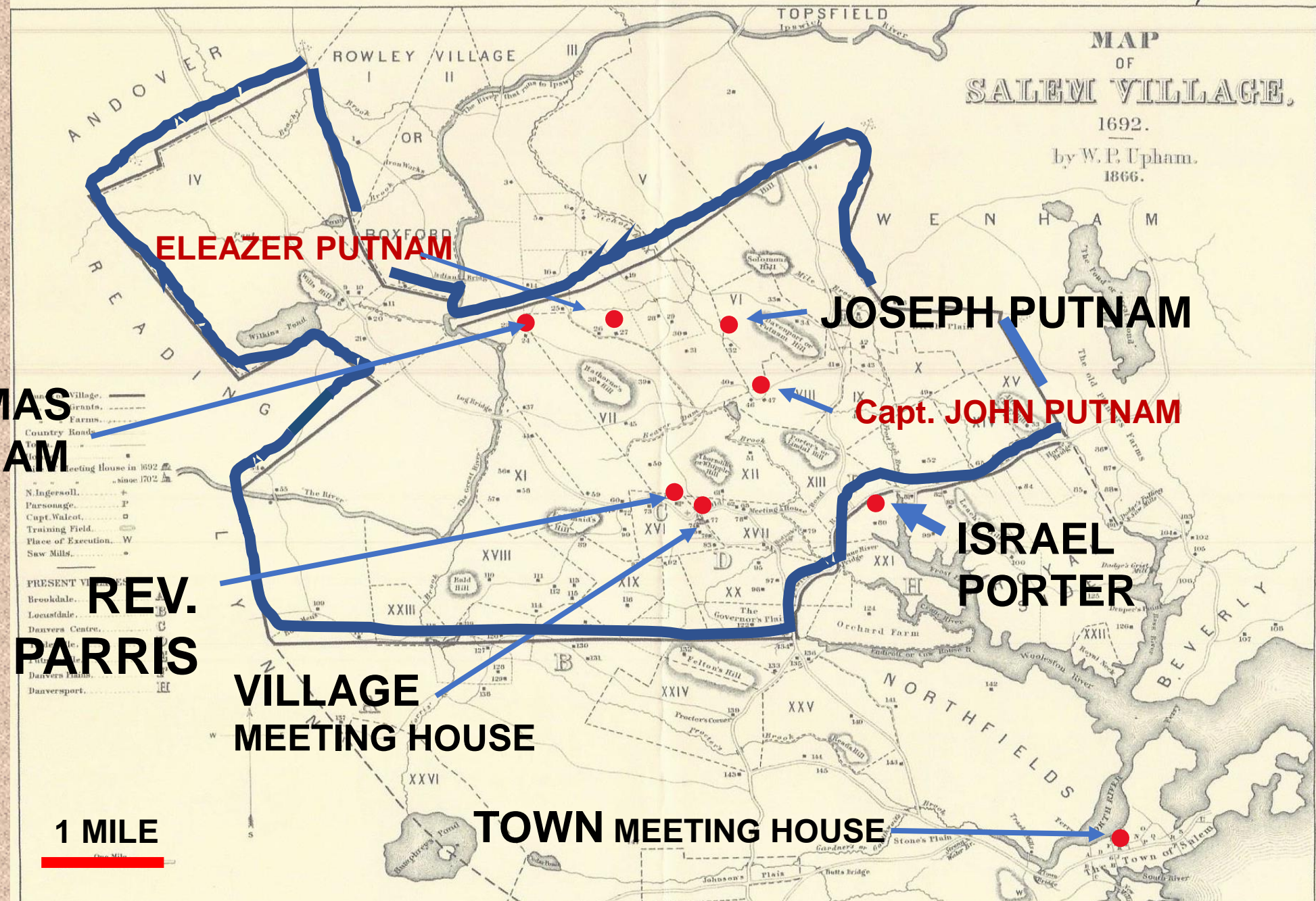
ARTHUR PUTNAM

ALLAN PUTNAM

BOB PUTNAM



47 - Eleazer
37 - Capt John



PUTNAM vs. PUTNAM / PORTER

ANN HOLYOKE ← THOMAS PUTNAM(1615-1686) 2ND m.1666 → MARY VEREN
(m.1643)

↓
4TH CHILD **THOMAS JR.**
MARRIED **ANN** CARR IN 1678

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

**THE NEXT
3 PAIRS OF
SLIDES
TELL THE
TALE**

↓
THOMAS AND MARY HAD ONE SON
JOSEPH
b.1669



**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**



PUTNAM vs. PUTNAM / PORTER

ANN HOLYOKE ← THOMAS PUTNAM(1615-1686) 2ND m.1666 → MARY VEREN
(m.1643)

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THOMAS AND MARY HAD ONE SON
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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

ANN HOLYOKE ← THOMAS PUTNAM(1615-1686) 2ND m.1666 → MARY VEREN
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b.1669

THE NEXT 3
SLIDES
TELL THE
TALE



- 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 WORSENERD**
- **THE VILLAGE CHURCH FACTIONS HAD ALSO WORSENERD 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 FEUDING
- 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 ‘RECENTED’

Susanna Sheldon

Mary Warren

ONE WAS QUOTED IN
MARCH: “SHE DID IT
FOR SPORT. WE MUST
HAVE SOME SPORT”



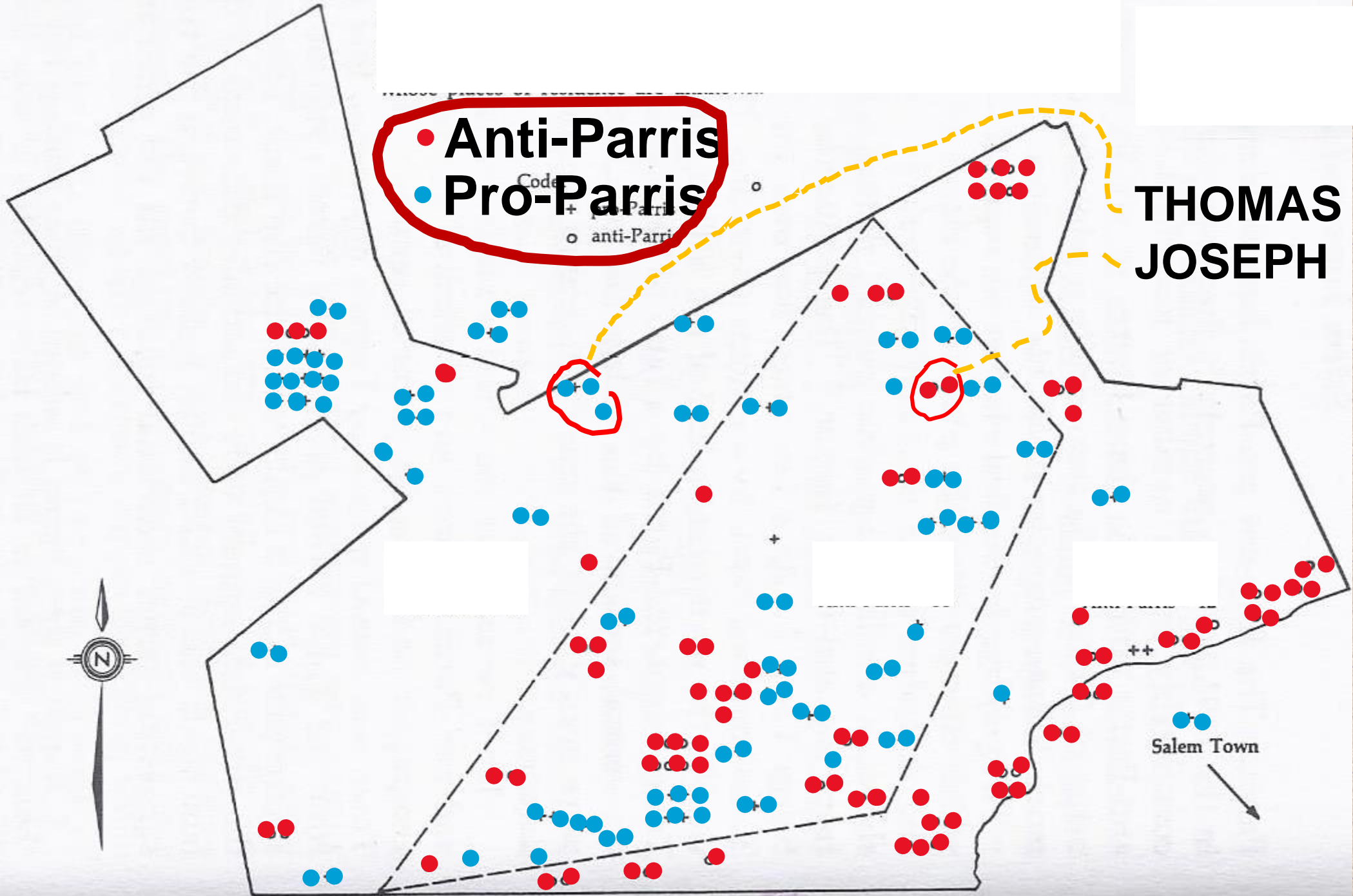
A TELLTALE PATTERN EMERGES - FROM BOYER AND NISSENBAUM

- **PLOT THE ANTI-PARRIS AND PRO-PARRIS FAMILIES**
- **THEY SEPARATE INTO THREE REGIONS**

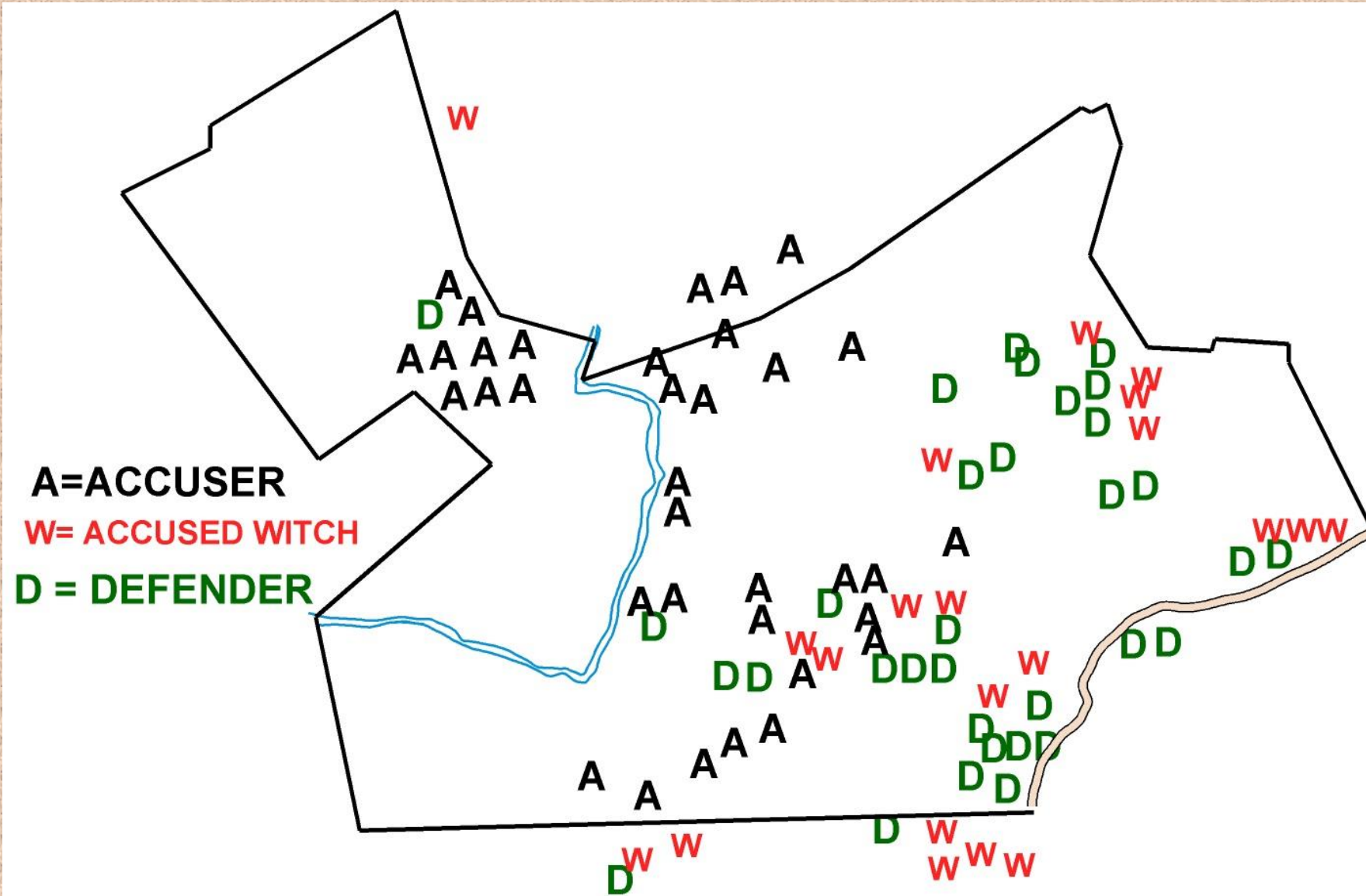


• Anti-Parris
• Pro-Parris

THOMAS
JOSEPH






ANOTHER TELLTALE PATTERN



LAND HOLDINGS

PORTER

PUTNAM

- Key:
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 -  Porter Lands
 -  Porter Mills



Map 6 Putnam and Porter Lands in the 1690's



AFTER THE LAST EXECUTIONS ON SEPT 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**

