



Salem Witch Trials

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What Happened?

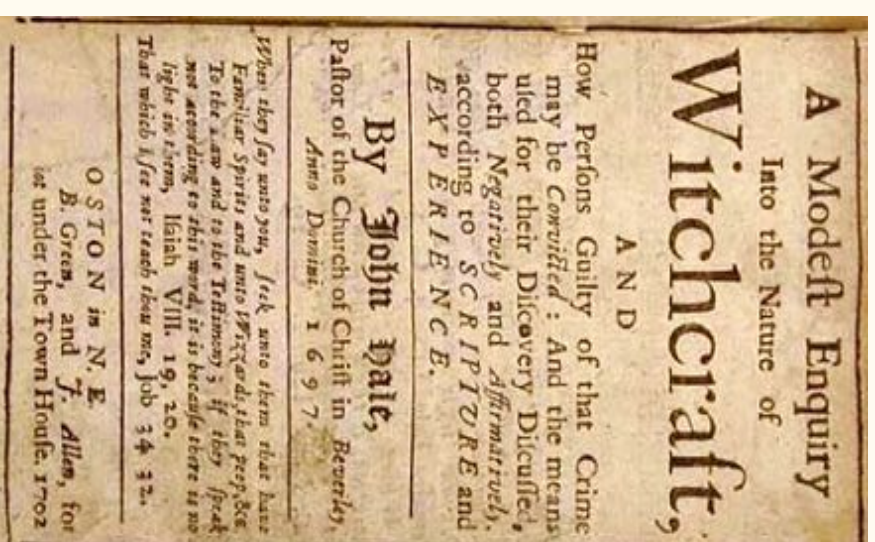
Before 1690

- From 1600-1690
- People started accusing others of being witches
- Judges were still skeptical because nothing could be proven, and was it not yet made a big deal the within society.

- About 100 people were accused to be witches before 1690, however only a few were convicted and even fewer were executed. Most of those who were convicted were middle aged women who angered their neighbors.
- Witches were also know as “allies of the devil”, and were thought to harness invisible spirits for good and evil purposes.
- They were known to practice fortune telling, healing potions/charms, and harm (causing death of child or valuable animals).

After 1690

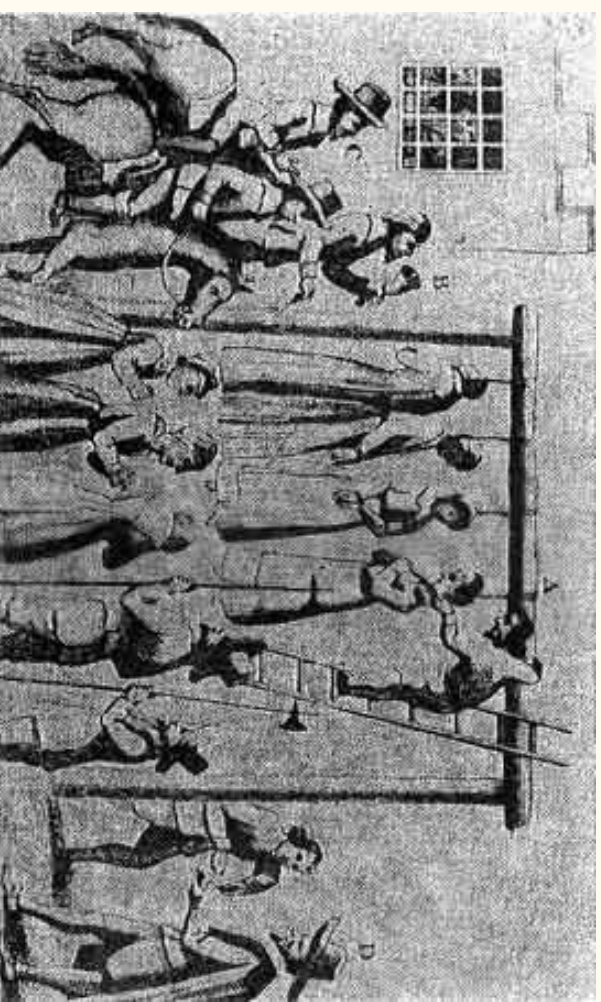
- All of a sudden in 1690 witchcraft accusations spread rapidly throughout rural communities in Massachusetts. This occurred during the war in the north.
- Anytime someone died, or misfortune occurred, someone was blamed for it.
- Spread from just middle-aged women accused, to both men and women of all ages.
- Courts were flooded with cases of accused witches and all doubt left the courts. People were being convicted left and right.
- This lasted for eight months.



Statistics (within 8 months)

Source: textbook

- Hanged - 14 women and 5 men
- Stoned - 1 man
- Confessed to being witches - 54 total
- Jailed - 140 total



How Did It End?



Conclusion of the Witch Trials

- According to them, their province was under direct assault not only by the Indians and their French Allies, but by the Devil and his allied witches.
- There are many theories as to how the witch trials came to end.
- The governor got rid of the court that was continuing to prosecute these witches, and the trials were determined unlawful.
- The governor ended the trials because his own wife was accused of witchcraft.
- Lasted 8 months total and both men and women were convicted.
- 1711 - the colony passed a bill that restored the rights of those who were accused.

Significance



What does this tell us about life in Colonial Time?

- There were Puritan communities.
- The people were very religious and stuck to their traditions.
- There was a problem with society's view of women; people believed that they may have caused all of the world's problems.
- In the community there was isolationism, paranoia, and repression.
- The villages were vulnerable to famine, attacks from Indian tribes, epidemic, and economic hardship.
- They may have had problems between colonies due to accusations of witchcraft.



THE "WITCH" SPOON

(Registered Trade-Mark.)

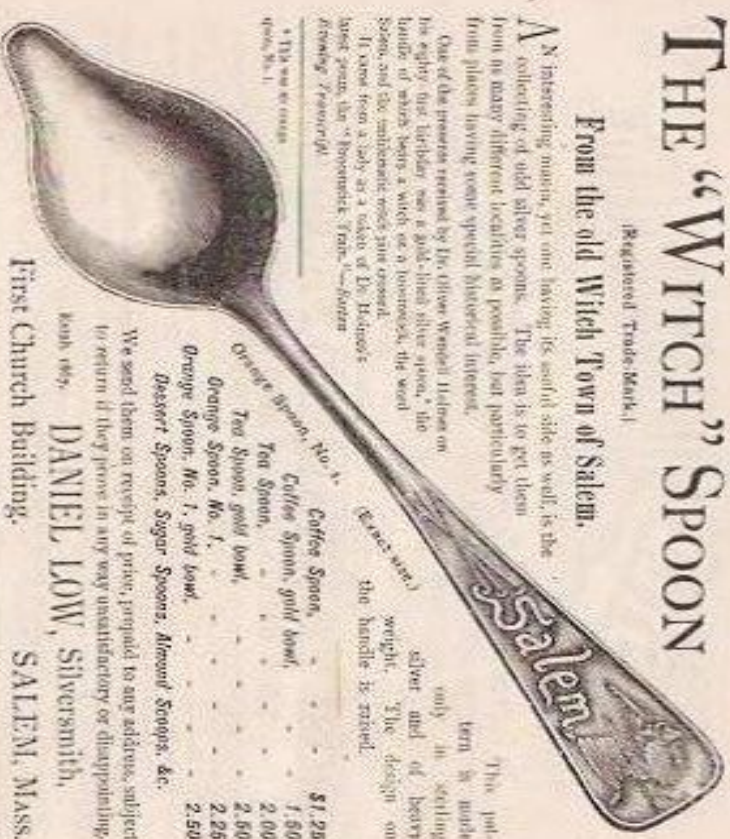
From the old Witch Town of Salem.

An interesting memento, yet one having its useful side as well, is the collecting of old silver spoons. The idea is to get them from as many different localities as possible, but particularly from places having some special historical interest.

One of the treasures received by the above Woman's Mission on its eighty first birthday was a gold-lined silver spoon, the handle of which bears a witch on a broomstick, the word "Salem," and the inscription: "Witch Town, 1703."

It came from a lady as a token of Dr. Hildner's latest grant, the "Broomstick, 1703," from the "Witch Town, 1703."

* This was the original spoon, No. 1.



This pattern is made only in selling silver and of heavy weight. The design on the handle is raised.

Orange Spoon, No. 1.	Coffee Spoon.	\$1.25
Ten Spoon.	Coffee Spoon, gold bowl.	1.50
Tea Spoon, gold bowl.		2.00
Orange Spoon, No. 1.		2.50
Orange Spoon, No. 1, gold bowl.		2.25
Greatest Spoon, Sugar Spoon, Almond Spoon, &c.		2.50

We send them on receipt of price, prepaid to any address, subject to return if they prove in any way unsatisfactory or disappointing.

March 1907.

DANIEL LOW, Silversmith,

First Church Building.

SALEM, MASS.

The End