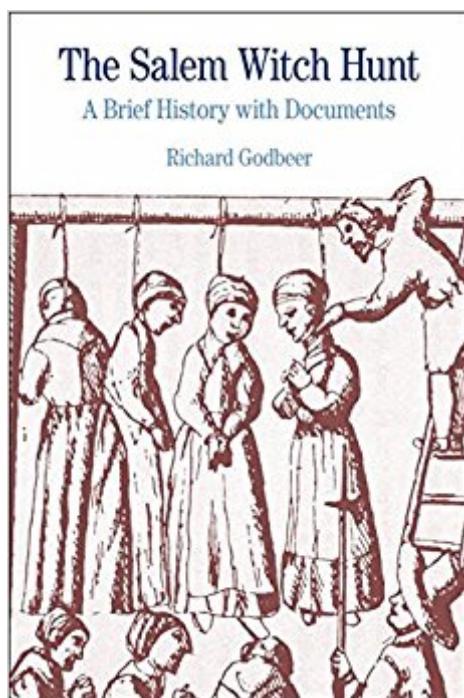


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The Salem Witch Hunt: A Brief History With Documents



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

RICHARD GODBEER (Ph.D., Brandeis University) is professor of history at the University of Miami. Godbeer's research and teaching interests center on colonial and revolutionary America, with an emphasis on religious culture, gender studies, and the history of sexuality. His first book, *The Devil's Dominion: Magic and Religion in Early New England* (1992) won the American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch Award for the Best First Book. He is also the author of *Sexual Revolution in Early America* (2002), *Escaping Salem: The Other Witch Hunt of 1692* (2004), and

The Overflowing of Friendship: Love Between Men and the Creation of the American Republic (2009).

Required reading for college... The book seems to be credible, but the American Colonist were stupid!! Throwing people in jail claiming witchcraft when there was no real hard evidence of such thing. The town doctor abandoning his medical duties and telling people that what they had was supernatural when really it was a form of grain ergotism. The town of Salem should have been made an example of after the trials.. Don't read this book unless it is a required reading....

This book was required reading for a undergraduate course I took but I ended up loving it. In the US, we've all hear about the Salem witch trials, but most of what the public knows comes not from their own interpretation of the events but rather from what we've been told by others. Oftentimes that information is severely diluted and even erroneous. This book gives lay people, and by that I mean non-historians, the opportunity to read the documents and make up their own mind. The most valuable aspect of this book is that it contains documents not only from the famous Salem trials but also from the lesser known trials at Stamford, which took place within the same period of time. The documents from both town trials show a extraordinary difference in how the trials were handled and in the outcome. The Stamford trials, combined with the circumstances in which Salem found itself at the time, makes it possible to truly get to the heart of the Salem trials. This book breaks it all down without necessarily dumbing it down, so to speak.

Thanks!

Son needed it for a college class. It was fine.

Richard Godbeer does an excellent job at compiling primary resources on the Salem Witch trials. This book is a must read for any scholar looking to understand the current historiography on this historical topic. He compiles the documents in a chronological order and groups the sections into the individual trials. The introduction is a must read, he lays the foundation of his study and gives a background that addresses the historiography. This book is a leader in Salem studies, and I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to understand the culture of early New England Puritanical/Colonial America.

Bought for my history class.

Greet condition

Good info

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