

Witchcraft in Colonial America

Library Research Guide

La Salle College High School Library
8605 Cheltenham Avenue Wyndmoor, PA 19038-7199 215-233-2911
www.lschs.org/library

SCOPE OR BACKGROUND

During the end of the seventeenth century, hysteria swept through the New England colonies, particularly in Salem, Massachusetts, when people became convinced that some of their fellow citizens were witches. Many accused witches (usually women) were put on trial and some were subsequently executed.

The items below are just a selection of the many materials on the topics in the library catalog. [Search the catalog for more items.](#)

[MLA Style Guide](#) is available on the library website. Look at the top of the “How to Do Research” page.

KEYWORDS FOR SEARCHES

Witchcraft

Witchcraft trials

Salem, Massachusetts

Use the name of a key person in the trials; e.g., Tituba, Cotton Mather.

BROWSE FOR BOOKS USING THESE CALL NUMBERS

133.4-133.43

345.744

974.4

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

[American History Database](#) (ABC-Clio)

<http://www.socialstudies.abc-clio.com/iplogin.asp>

American Eras: The Colonial Era R 973.2 AME

North America in Colonial Times R 970.02 NOR

Salem Witchcraft by Charles W. Upham 133.43 UPH

Witches by Wendy Stein 133.4 STE

TRIALS

“Witch Trials” p. 99-115, Gale Encyclopedia of the Unusual and Unexplained
R 130.3 STE

The Salem Witch Trials by Earle Rice, Jr. 133.4 RIC

“The Salem Witchcraft Trials” by Paula A. Treckel, p.153- 162 in The Colonial Period, 1607-1750. 973.2 COL

The Salem Witchcraft Trials by Karen Zeinert 133.4 ZEI

DAILY LIFE DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD

Daily Life Online <http://dailylife.greenwood.com/login.asp>

Includes many essays including “Fear and Persecution in Daily Life”

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Biography Reference Bank (AccessPA Power Library)
<http://www.lschs.org/page.cfm?p=65>

Biography Resource Center (Gale Database)
<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/pl6058>

Dictionary of American Biography R 920.0730

PRIMARY SOURCES

“*An Essay for the Recording of Illustrious Providences (1684)*” by Increase Mather (p.137 -139) in Colonial America: A History in Documents.

“Insufficiency of Evidence Against Witches” by Increase Mather. P. 293 -296 in Annals of America R 973.08 ANN

“Condemnation of Witchcraft Trials” by Thomas Battle. Annals of America. p. 285- 292 in Annals of America R 973.08 ANN

PERIODICAL INDEXES

[EBSCOhost Master File Premier](#) (AccessPA Power Library)
<http://www.lschs.org/page.cfm?p=65>

IMAGES, GRAPHIC, CHARTS AND MAPS

[American History](#) (ABC-Clio) has images of people.
<http://www.socialstudies.abc-clio.com/iplogin.asp>

[Biography Resource Center](#) has images of people.
<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/pl6058>

[Curriculum Resource Center](#) has images of some of the historical figures involved in the Salem Witch Trials.
<http://www.fofweb.com/>

FICTION BOOKS RELATED TO THE TOPIC

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

I, Tituba, Black witch of Salem by Maryse Condé

[NovelList](#) is a fiction database that provides subject heading access, reviews, annotations, and much more for over 135,000 fiction titles. Type in the keywords, "Salem" and "witchcraft" to find fiction on the main topic. NovelList is available through the [AccessPA Power Library](#). (Go to the "Online Database page on the library website.)

AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

"The Crucible" (videocassette) AV 812.52 CRU

"The Salem Witch Trials" (DVD) AV 973.2 SAL

ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Salem Witch Museum <http://www.salemwitchmuseum.com/>