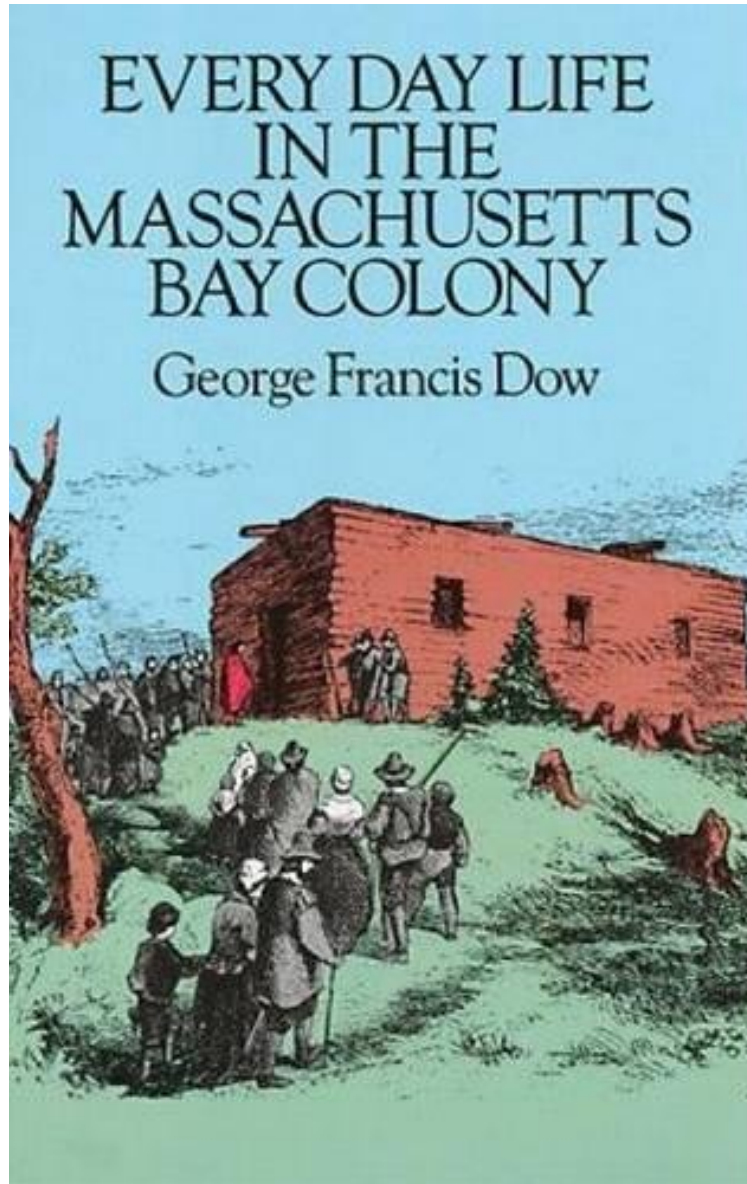


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Every Day Life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony

George Francis Dow

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George Francis Dow : Every Day Life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Every Day Life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good reference By hortus My second copy. The only reason I am not giving it a five star rating is because a few historical details in the book have since been proven in a different light. George F. Dow was a pioneer in this type of historical work and laid the ground work for those coming after him. 30 of

30 people found the following review helpful. Just the facts
By dinska
This is a densely packed little book. I was very glad to come across it, personally. I am rather tired with every book I pick up about the Puritans being a psychological deconstruction. This straight-forward book, instead, is full of facts, personal accounts, item inventories, drawings and diagrams that are extremely helpful in getting a picture of how these people lived, centuries ago. This is an old book, first published in 1935, but it doesn't make it any less relevant today. Every area of life is considered, from the voyage to New England down to sports and games. Many documents are presented without any commentary at all, and you can come to your own conclusions. The illustrations are many and are helpful alongside the text to bring these people to life. Whether you're a student of history or a genealogist, if you're interested in this era at all there is no reason not to own this book. Some people think that the Massachusetts Bay Colony gets little attention compared to Plymouth and Virginia. Whether that's true or not, *Everyday Life* will give you instant insight into the colony and the colonists' personal lives.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Eclectic Fun
By Gordon Adams
This book is not a coherent narrative. Each chapter covers a different topic, some of which are quite interesting (the chapter on housing, for example). Others, however, consist of nothing but long lists which represent inventories or catalogs, including such items as fabric types and medical remedies. These can be MANY pages in length, and should be considered more in the way of source material than analysis or narrative. As a result what's here is a mixture of highly enjoyable and tedium. If you're researching early fabric types or medical remedies, the lists might be just what you need. If not, you'll find yourself skipping a lot of pages. I'm not planning on getting rid of the book, but it's much more of a research tool than anything else.

The New York Times called this book a "valuable addition to the too-small list of books that give reliable accounts of the daily lives of the early Colonists beautifully made and interestingly illustrated." With the republication of *Every Day Life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony*, the incidents, anecdotes, and events surrounding the first inhabitants of colonial New England are brought vividly to life. Drawing extensively on contemporary records, author and antiquarian George Dow provides graphically accurate descriptions of early shelters and dwellings, interior furnishings, colonial wardrobes, sports and games, shipping, trade, medicinal aids, medicinal practice, crimes, punishment, and much more. The text dispenses a wealth of intimate details on manners and customs including intriguing tidbits of information on peculiar mealtime apparel, eating habits, and personal cleanliness. Detailed appendixes contain shop inventories, records of the contents of private homes, copies of building agreements, and other matters. Supplementing the text are more than 100 historically valuable photographs and illustrations, including rare pictures of early kitchens and parlors, furniture, clapboard houses, farmyard scenes, a variety of workers at their crafts, gravestones, and an execution by hanging. Here is a book that will delight students and teachers of history, researchers, and anyone fascinated by the day-to-day activities of this country's earliest settlers.