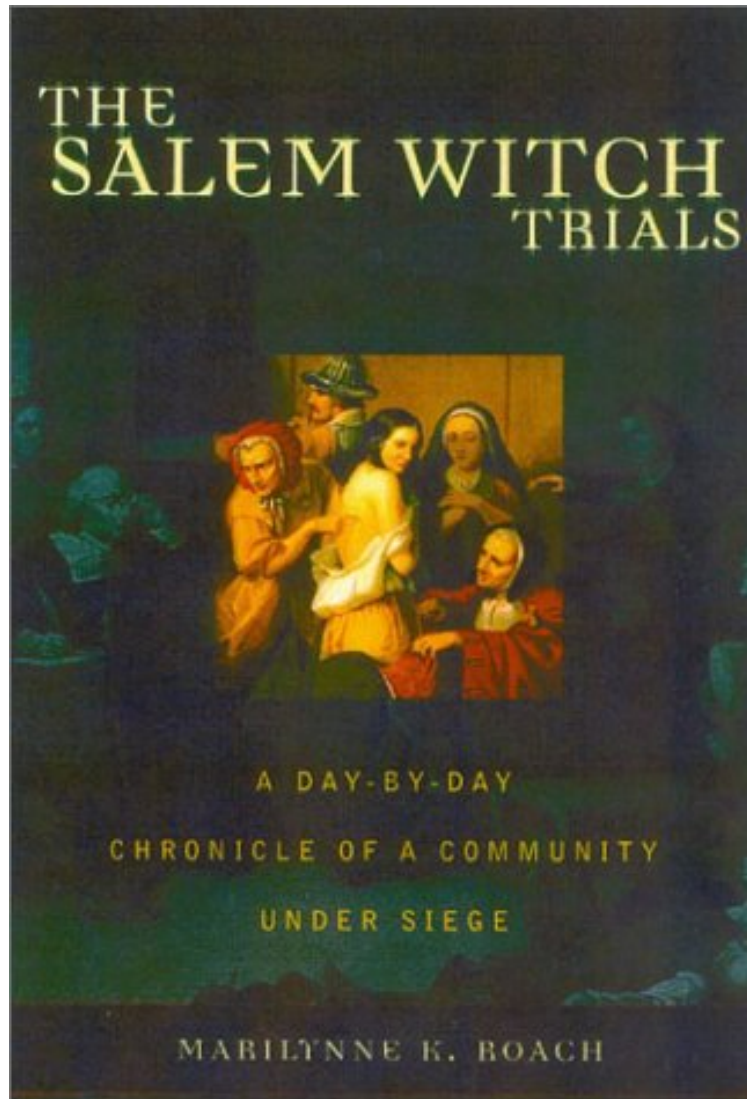


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The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Community Under Siege

Marilynne K. Roach

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seemingly (at first glance) to be unrelated that without such a book as this it's almost impossible to sort out what happened when, to whom, and (most importantly) why. Roach's chronology clarifies a lot of the connections in this story that tend to get obscured in other narratives; it's a highly readable book besides. Even when you know what's coming next--as all Salem witch buffs will--it's still not an easy book to put down. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must Read Book!!!By Deborah E BeaudoinThis book has so much information and shows what was really happening during the Salem Witch trials. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Great book for study, casual and educational reading!By Paul Maher Jr.For all of those interested in reading about witchcraft hysteria, Ms. Roach's new book, *The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-To-Day Chronicle of a Community Under Siege*, (written after twenty-seven years of exhaustive research) documents the day-by-day events which culminated in one of the most shameful and horrifying chapters in America's heritage. Her meticulous footnoting and chronological accounts of how this historical oddity unfolded makes this book a valuable tool for historians and students. Also, the careful writing makes it an enjoyable reading for those that like to be caught up in the glorious intonations of prosaic language. Highly recommended!

Based on over twenty years of original archival research, this history unfolds a nearly day-by-day narrative of the Salem Witch Trials as the citizens of Salem experienced the outbreak of hysteria.

From Publishers WeeklyThe Salem witch trials of 1692-1693 remain one of the enigmas of American history. How did the witchcraft hysteria come about? Did the imaginations of the townspeople run wild so that they viewed unneighborly acts as an evil threat promulgated by Satan's minions? Roach (*In the Days of the Salem Witchcraft Trial*) answers these and other questions in her monumental daily chronology of the trial years. She introduces her account with an exhaustive narrative history of the Salem community from 1661 to 1691. With workmanlike precision, she provides historical details--such as the conflicts between church congregations and ministers and the increasing frequency of Indian attacks--as she contends that the hysteria arose most likely from the political, religious and social turmoil of the time. Using newly available diaries, journals and letters, Roach then reconstructs, for the first time, daily life during the height of the witch trials as well as accounts of court proceedings, arrests and suspects' confessions. In an epilogue, Roach shows that, just a decade after the trials, preachers sought repentance for the injustices done and that the desire to right the wrongs of the trials lasted well into the 19th century. Roach's detailed reference book provides deep insights into the trial years by letting us listen to the voices of everyone involved. 35 bw illus. and maps. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.