

AFFLICTION:

SALEM 1692

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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BEGINNINGS

In January of 1692, 11-year old Abigail Williams and 9-year-old Elizabeth Parris were under the care of Tituba, a slave for the Reverend Samuel Parris. Tituba showed the girls a parlor trick where an egg white is broken into a glass of water. The girls were told that they would see their future husbands in the image that formed. Elizabeth Parris saw a coffin. Shortly after this event, the girls acted strangely. They began having fits, claimed to be pinched and bitten, screamed, and barked like dogs. The doctor was called into examine them. Finding nothing medically wrong, the diagnosis was witchcraft. The girls became known as The Afflicted.

THE AFFLICTED

Elizabeth Parris - Age 9

Daughter of Rev. Samuel Parris, "Betty" was the first of the Afflicted Girls. After the declaration of witchcraft, she was pressured by her father to tell him who bewitched her. Elizabeth eventually told the story of the egg white and accused Tituba, Sarah Good, and Sarah Osborne.



Abigail Williams - Age 11

Abigail was the niece of Rev. Samuel Parris. It is presumed that her parents died in an Indian attack and that was the reason for living with Parris. One of the main and initial accusers, little is known about her after the trials ended. It is thought that she may not have lived past the age of 17.

Ann Putnam - Age 13

Ann was the eldest child of Thomas Putnam and was another crucial accuser in Salem. Her testimony along with that of other Afflicted Girls resulted in the execution of a number of people. She is the only one of the Afflicted Girls to ever apologize for her role in the witch trials.



Elizabeth Hubbard - Age 17

She was an orphaned maidservant purchased by Dr. William Griggs to serve in his household. She was the first of the Afflicted Girls old enough to testify under oath and eventually testified 32 times.



Mercy Lewis - Age 17



All of Mercy's family were killed in Wabanaki Indian attacks. Orphaned, she moved in with her sister after briefly being a servant for Rev. George Burroughs. Later, she became a servant in Thomas Putnam's household. Lewis claimed that Satan had appeared to her, offering her "gold and

many fine things" if she would write in his book. One of her many claims involved Spectral Evidence. This was admissible in the court at Salem and became a powerful weapon. The accused would often state they saw the specter of another colonist appear before them. It was the responsibility of the colonist to prove their innocence.

Mary Warren - Age 20

Mary was employed as a servant in John Proctor's household. She was the oldest of the Afflicted Girls. Initially, she claimed to have fits until John Proctor threatened her. The fits stopped and she posted a note at the church implying that the "Afflicted" girls were lying. In response to this, the girls accused Mary of being a witch. Under duress, she confessed and testified against other colonists.



Mary's ability in the game to reduce fear reflects her claim that the girls were lying. The doubt that she cast increased the questions as to the validity of the afflicted girls' claims.

Samuel Parris - Age 47



In October 1691, the town of Salem decided to stop paying his wages. In response to this he drew battle lines. Parris was an evangelical minister who preached theological conservatism. During the trials he said the Puritans were under siege by the Devil, who was aided by "wicked & reprobate men."



Tituba - Age 35

Rev. Samuel Parris beat Tituba until she confessed to being a witch. Brought in front of the Magistrate and attempting to avoid further beatings, Tituba wove a tale of an appearance of a tall man in black who showed her his book. She could read three names (hers, Sarah Good and Sarah

Osborne). She said there were additional names, but she could not make them out. This sparked the hysteria that there were more witches living among them.

After each arrest and often the subsequent confession, more credence was given to Tituba's claims that there were witches in Salem.

Dr. William Griggs - 47

Rev. Samuel Parris attempted to pray for the Afflicted Girls' salvation and consulted other ministers in his efforts to cure them. He called the doctor who could find no medical reason for the girl's behavior and declared it to be a result of witchcraft. In response to this diagnosis, Parris began to pursue the source of the witchcraft vehemently.



THE ACCUSED

Initially, the weak and undesirable were targeted. As events progressed, no one was safe from accusations. Politics, power, position, and wealth played a major role in who was arrested and who was not.

Sarah Good - Age 39 (Hanged)



Being a marginal member of society, her unpleasant disposition made her a perfect candidate for witchcraft accusations. At the gallows, she was asked by Rev. Nicholas Noyes, to confess. Good is said to have screamed, "You're a liar! I'm no more a witch than you are a wizard! If you take my life away, God will give you blood to drink!"

The people of Salem found her undesirable and wanted to be rid of her. Therefore, she is an easy target to take attention off of more influential colonists.

Mary Eastey - Age 58 (Hanged)

Eastey was a pious and respected citizen of Salem. Mary pleaded for others who were falsely accused: "I petition your honours not for my own life for I know I must die and my appointed time is set but the Lord he knows it is that no more innocent blood be shed..." She was hanged in September 1692.

Mary's attempt to stand up for others is represented in the game by her ability to remove accusations.



Elizabeth Proctor - Age 41 (Released)

Elizabeth ran the family tavern. She descended from a family of Quakers. Puritans thought the Quakers to be "witch-like". Petitions were presented to defend both her and John; despite this they were both convicted in August. She was not executed because she was pregnant.

John Proctor - Age 60 (Hanged)

John owed a 700 acre farm and a tavern. He defended his wife after she was accused, and was then the first male to be charged with witchcraft. While in jail, the High Sheriff George Corwin seized all of their belongings.

Martha Corey - Age 71 (Hanged)

She stated that she didn't believe in witches. She was the first to be accused who wasn't a social outcast. Factors in the accusation may have been her having an illegitimate son born in the 1670s, and her outspoken criticisms of the trials and the judges involved in the convictions. She was hanged in September.



Bridget Bishop - Age 59 (Hanged)

Bridget was most likely a tavern worker. It is suspected that she was accused due to her "provocative" clothing and because she was outspoken. Bridget Bishop was the first person to be executed during the Salem witchcraft trials.

Rebecca Nurse - Age 71 (Hanged)

The Nurse family was involved in a number of land disputes with the Putnam family. Rebecca had a reputation for benevolence as well as piety. She was initially found not guilty, but pressure from her accusers forced the court to reconsider. The evidence of her good character was presented to Governor Sir William Phips, who granted a reprieve, but the outcry from the Afflicted Girls was so intense that he eventually withdrew it. She was executed for witchcraft on July 19, 1692.



Roger Toothaker - Age 52 (Died in Jail)

Roger never had any formal medical training. He did have a medical apprenticeship with Dr. Samuel Eldred, who often used mystical folk remedies. Prior to William Griggs' arrival he was the only doctor in Salem. Toothaker was arrested because he proclaimed that he and his daughter practiced counter magic against witches.

Martha Carrier - Age 44 (Hanged)

The Afflicted Girls accused her of using occult powers to murder people. Reverend Cotton Mather called her a "rampant hag" and the "Queen of Hell.". Her contentious spirit and the earlier charge of witchcraft are likely the cause of her arrest. Her real crime was "independence of mind and an unsubmitive character."



John Willard - Age 30 (Hanged)

A deputy constable in Salem, he was one of the first people of Salem to speak out against the witch trials. He was accused of witchcraft in April 1692, after refusing to arrest an accused. Bray Wilkins claimed that he became sick after a mean look from Willard. He was hanged in August and maintained his innocence .



Giles Corey - Age 71 (Pressed to death)

He refused to plead innocent or guilty because with no verdict, his property would pass on to his heirs. The court decided to attempt to “press” a plea out of him by laying stones on top of him. After two days he died under the pressure. His last words were reported to be “more weight.”

Mary Black (Released)

Mary was a slave of Nathaniel Putnam. She may have been accused as retribution towards Putnam for because he spoke in Rebecca Nurse’s defense.



John Alden - Age 64 (Escaped)

On his return home from Quebec, he stopped in Salem and was arrested for witchcraft. Some friends broke him out of jail and he escaped to Duxbury, where he stayed until the witch trials were over, or as he said, "the public had reclaimed the use of its reason."

Abigail Dane Faulkner - Age 40 (Released)

The Danes and Faulkners were relatively wealthy and were probably targets due to jealousy. Abigail was accused of witchcraft by Ann Putnam and Mary Warren. She was convicted, but her execution was delayed because she was pregnant. Governor Phips later granted her a pardon and she was released from jail.



Philip English - Age 47 (Escaped)

Philip’s wife was arrested and he was highly vocal and critical. This made him a target and he, too, was arrested. The English were one of the wealthiest families in Salem and they used their influence to be jailed in Boston instead of Salem. While there they were allowed to travel about the city each day. When their trial date drew close the couple fled to New York and waited out the hysteria.

TURNING POINT

Shifting public opinion. There were always those who objected to the trials, but a number of events contributed to the growing doubt among the community. In

Affliction: Salem 1692 the reduction of Fear represents the increase in doubt and colonists' ability to speak out.



Rev. George Burroughs - Age 40 (Hanged)

Cotton Mather wrote in his book, "Memorable Providences", that no witch would be able to recite the Lord's Prayer without "ridiculous amputations of depravations". As George Burroughs stood upon a ladder with a noose about his neck, he repeated, perfectly, the Lord's Prayer to the crowd. Those witnessing this began to protest that he could not be a witch. Mather happened to be at the hanging because he wanted to make an example out of Burroughs and made the following statement, "...the devil often had been transformed into the Angel of Light." The spectators appeared to be appeased by Mather's proclamation regarding the trickery of the Devil. However, the seeds of doubt began to spread.

Margaret Jacobs - Age 17 (Released in 1693)

The day after her grandfather was hanged, she wrote a letter to her father. Jacobs had testified against her own grandfather and the guilt of doing so drove her to recant her statement and be sentenced to death for recanting. Her hanging was delayed and she was eventually retried and found innocent.



"The reason of my Confinement [in jail] is this, I having, through the magistrates Threatenings, and my own Vile and Wretched Heart, confessed several things contrary to my Conscience and Knowledg, tho to the Wounding of my own Soul, the Lord pardon me for it; but Oh! The terrors of a wounded Conscience who can bear and God knows how soon I shall be put to death"

The general population began to question how there could be so many witches among them. Many were convinced that innocent people had been hanged.



George Jacobs Sr. - Age 71 (Hanged)

Jacobs was a prosperous farmer who had lived in the Salem Farms area between Salem Town and Salem Village for thirty-five years. He was accused of witchcraft by Mary Warren and his own granddaughter, Margaret. She later recanted, and Jacobs forgave her. He was hanged as a witch in August of 1692.

OTHER NOTABLE PEOPLE



George Corwin - Age 26

He was the High Sheriff of Essex County. Corwin signed warrants for the arrest and execution of those condemned of witchcraft. He presided over the interrogation and torture of Giles Corey, who was pressed to death for refusing to stand trial for witchcraft. Rumor has it that Corwin would often seize the possessions of those arrested.

Reverend Nicholas Noyes - Age 45

Noyes had officiated as clergyman at the final hangings of the those accused of witchcraft. Before the execution of Sarah Good, her last words were, "You are a liar! I am no more a witch than you are a wizard, and if you take away my life God will give you blood to drink." 25 years later, Noyes died of a hemorrhage and literally did choke on his own blood.



Reverend Deodat Lawson - Age 45



Living in Salem between 1684-1688, he believed members of his family had died there under "the malicious operations of the infernal powers". He returned to Salem in 1692 to find out what was happening. His courtroom observations were recorded in a pamphlet entitled *A Brief and True Narrative of Some Remarkable Passages Relating to Sundry Persons Afflicted by Witchcraft, at Salem Village.*

Governor William Phips - Age 41

He was appointed Governor just prior to the trials. Phips created the special witchcraft Court of Oyer and Terminer, and eventually disbanded it after his wife was accused, the Boston ministers, and the general public turned against the trials. He might have stopped the trials earlier had he kept a closer eye on the proceedings, instead of leaving them to Deputy Governor William Stoughton, the chief justice of the court.



John Hathorne - Age 51



According to the book *Death in Salem: The Private Lives Behind the 1692 Witch Hunt*: “Hathorne’s haste in convicting the detainees, and his refusal to reconsider a verdict even after major witnesses had recanted their testimony, has left some historians wondering if he wasn’t profiting materially from his victims’ demise.” He behaved more like a prosecutor than the impartial judge he was supposed to be.

Reverend Cotton Mather - Age 29

Mather spent years researching and writing about witchcraft. It was this expertise that won him an audience with the most powerful figures involved in the trial proceedings. Although he warned about the use of Spectral Evidence he did not denounce its application.

He was not directly involved in the trials, but wrote a letter to the courts that they interpreted as approval for the trials to go on.



Judge William Stoughton - 61

was appointed Chief Justice of the court of Oyer and Terminer. He ruled over the trials with a determination to eradicate all witches. Heavily influenced by his conservative religious convictions.

He continued to attempt to execute those convicted of witchcraft even after Governor Phips forbade it.



THE FAMILIES

4 JOHN PUTNAM

4 THOMAS PUTNAM
Thomas was an advocate of

3 ANN PUTNAM JR.
Characterized by her faith, devotion and skills

5 EDWARD PUTNAM
He often examined the accused and the "afflicted" in order to determine the truthfulness in their declarations.

2nd Deacon



Age 38

PAY REQUIRED
INFLUENCE
AND ARREST
A COLONIST.

The Putnams were farmers who followed the simple life reflecting traditional Puritan beliefs. They believed that the thriving merchants of Salem Town, made people too liberal and individualistic. Having gained the right to build their own church and have their own minister, the Putnams also sought to control the church, thereby, controlling the community. Heading up this group was Thomas Putnam, who forged an elite group that would remain in control of village affairs for years. The Putnams were highly active accusers during the Salem witch trials.

The Proctors had a number of successful enterprises. Their wealth made them targets of jealousy and envy. The head of the family, John, was outspoken about the witch trials and of those that would take the word of the "Afflicted" Girls. Being that outspoken against the trials was a fatal mistake.

3 WILLIAM PROCTOR
William is the son of John

3 MARY BASSET DERICH
Accused of witchcraft, her own

3 ELIZABETH PROCTOR
Elizabeth ran the family

5 JOHN PROCTOR
He inherited a 700 acre estate known as Groton farm and also owned a tavern that was run by his wife.

Landowner



Age 60

1 LESS
INFLUENCE TOKEN
IS REQUIRED TO
BRING A COLONIST
INTO YOUR CIRCLE.

The Porters had a number of successful

3 SARAH PORTER
Sarah's husband, served as a

4 ISRAEL PORTER
Israel was the son of John, Doe

4 BENJAMIN PORTER
Benjamin's husband, served as a

5 JOHN PORTER SR.
John was the patriarch of the richest family in Salem. The family had commercial interests throughout New England.

Landowner



Age 74

PAY REQUIRED
INFLUENCE AND BRING
A COLONIST INTO
YOUR CIRCLE.

The Porters' diversified business increased their family's wealth while the Putnam family's wealth stagnated. A rivalry began in 1672 when a dam run by the Porters flooded the Putnam farms. The following lawsuit resulted in a deepening

of the bitter feud. Later the Putnams repeatedly petitioned the town in an effort to obtain political independence for the village, and the Porters opposed them. Eventually, the Putnams achieved that independence and ultimately the power to influence the witch trials.

CONCLUSION

A number of factors contributed to the end of the Salem witch trials. There were doubters from the beginning, but the number of people questioning how many witches could possibly be among them increased as the trials wore on. Mary Warren's claim that the afflicted girls were lying, Margaret Jacobs recanting her testimony and Reverend George Burroughs reciting the Lord's Prayer perfectly while on the gallows were all events that added to the growing disbelief that all who were executed were witches.



The Afflicted Girls gained power and notoriety typically unavailable to women of the time. At one point, their names were published in the London papers. As their fame grew, so did their boldness. Eventually, they accused Governor William Phip's wife of witchcraft. Upon hearing this, the Governor stopped legal proceedings and Judge Stoughton was no

forbidden from executing those convicted. A battle of wills ensued, with the Governor eventually winning. All those jailed were released by January of 1693.

Even though legal proceedings had been curtailed, there were still those of the opinion that witches were running rampant among them. One of the proclamations that eased the minds of a number of the Puritans came from Increase Mather. In September he published "*Cases of Conscience Concerning Evil Spirits Personating Men, Witchcrafts, Infallible Proofs of Guilt in such as are accused with that Crime*" in which he denounced the use of spectral evidence. It said, "It were better that Ten Suspected Witches should escape than that one Innocent Person should be Condemned."



The horrors and damage that occurred in Salem and the surrounding area have become a part of New England lore. The presumption of innocence had been present in English common law for years, but was noticeably absent in Salem. The witch trials may have largely contributed to "innocent until proven guilty" becoming a more prevalent concept in the American legal system.