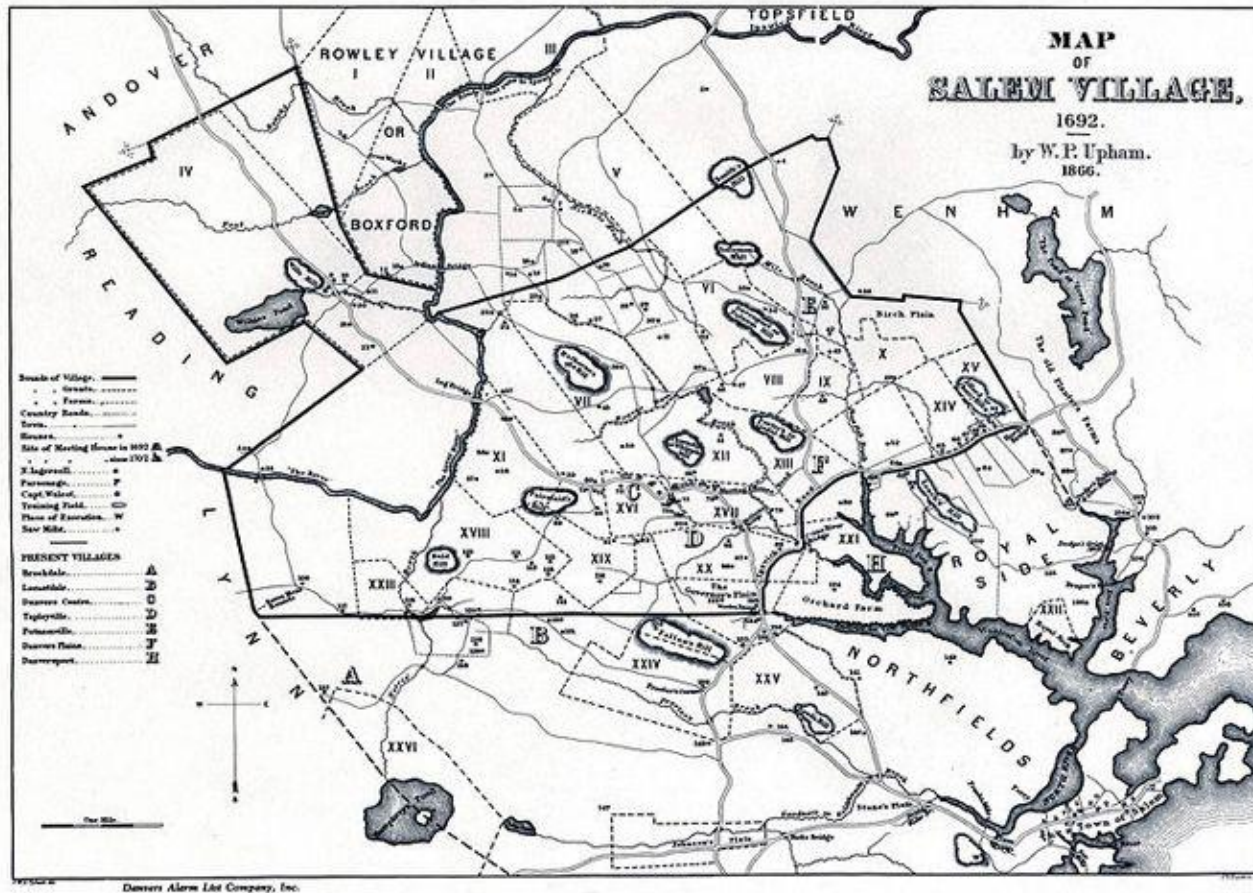


Massachusetts Clears 5 From Salem Witch Trials

Salem Witch Trials



The Salem witch trials occurred in colonial Massachusetts between 1692 and 1693. More than 200 people were accused of practicing witchcraft—the Devil's magic—and 20 were executed. Eventually, the colony admitted the trials were a mistake and compensated the families of those convicted. Since then, the story of the trials has become synonymous with paranoia and injustice, and it continues to beguile the popular imagination more than 300 years later.



This map of Salem Village is a reconstruction of how Salem looked in 1692 at the start of the witch trials as created in 1866 from historical records by Charles W. Upham

To the Honourable Governor and Councell and
Generall Assembly now sitting at Boston

The humble petition of vs whose names are subscribed hereunto
now prisoners at Ipswich humbly sheweth, that some of vs have
Lye in the prison many monthes, and some of vs many weekes, who
are charged with witchcraft, and not bring consciours to our silens
of any guilt of that nature Lying upon our consciences; our earnest
request is that seeing the winter is soe far come on that it can not be
expected that we should be tryed during this winter season, that we
may be released out of prison for the present upon Bayle to answer what
we are charged with in the Spring. For we are not in this unwilling nor
afraid to abide the tryall before any Judicature appointed in convenient
season of any crime of that nature; we hope you will put on the bowells
of compassion soe far as to consider of our suffering condition in the present
state we are in, being like to perish with cold in Lying longer in prison in
this cold season of the yeare, some of us being aged either about or nere
four score some though younger yet being with Child, and one giving suck
to a child not ten ~~months~~ old yet, and all of us weak and infirme at the
best, and one fettered with irons this halfe yeare and all most destroyed
with soe long an Imprisonment. Thus hoping you will grant us a release
at the present that we be not left to perish in this miserable
condition we shall always pray etc.

Widow Penny. Willow Vincent. Widows Prina
Good wife Greene of Haverill, the wife of Hugh
Doe of Cape Anne, Mchitabel Downing, the wife
of Thomas Day, Goodwife Dicer of Piscataqua
Hanah Brewings of Haverill Rachel Huford
besides three or foure men



THE SHERIFF BROUGHT THE WITCH UP THE BROAD AISLE, HER CHAINS
CLANKING AS SHE STEPPED.

Petition for bail from accused witches" from
the John Davis Batchelder Autograph
Collection

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Abigail Williams testifies & saith that an old man that goes with
two sticks hath appeared to & hurt her many times by pinching &
bringing the book for her to get her hand unto, & the man told
her his name was Jacob the Father of Geo: Jacobs & the Grand-
father of Margaret Jacobs & he had made said Margaret
get her hand to the book & Sarah Churchwell & his son Geo:
Jacobs & his wife & another woman & her husband viz:
Mr. English & his wife: also that the said Margaret had
hurt her pretty much to day & at other times & brought her
the book several times to night but not before.

We whose names are underwritten testify that we heard the aforesaid
Abigail relate the charge aforesaid. This 10. ~~Apr~~ May 1692

Nathaniel Jungsell

Jonathan Walcott

John Lenth

Abigail William's testimony against George
Jacobs, Jr., during the Salem witches trial,
now retained by the Massachusetts
Historical Society.