

# Verifying Descent from Salem's Accused Witches

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## Historical Background

### Before the Salem Witchcraft Hysteria

**1550-1650 (Germany):** Thousands of convicted witches were burned to death

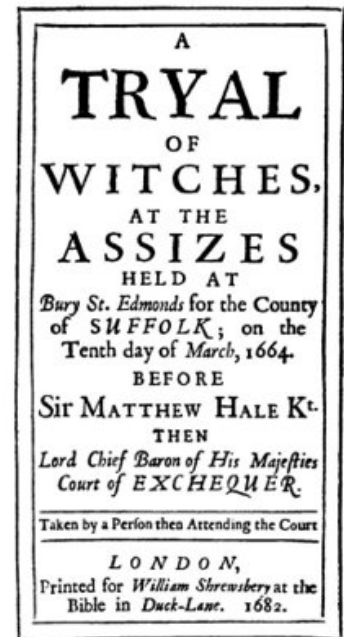
**1577 (Toulouse, France):** Forty convicted witches were burned to death

**1645 (England):** Eighteen persons were convicted of witchcraft and hanged.

**1647 (Connecticut):** Alse Youngs is the first New Englander executed for the crime of witchcraft

**1648 (Massachusetts):** Margaret Jones is the first Massachusetts resident executed for the crime of witchcraft.

**Tip:** *Accused witches were not burned at Salem*



### Executed in 1692 for the crime of Witchcraft during the Salem Witchcraft Trials

Bridget Bishop - Martha Carrier - Giles Corey - Martha Corey - Rev. George Burroughs - Mary Eastey  
Sarah Good - Elizabeth Howe - George Jacobs Sr. - Susannah Martin - Rebecca Nurse - Mary Parker  
Alice Parker - John Proctor - Ann Pudeator - Wilmot Redd - Margaret Scott - Sarah Wildes - John Willard - Samuel Wardwell Sr.

## Locating an Accused Ancestor

- Review your family tree for ancestors who were living in 1692-1693 in New England
- Compare the location of your ancestors with those who were accused of witchcraft
- Compare a listing of those who were executed and accused of witchcraft against your genealogy

**Tip:** *Not all the accused were from Salem or even Essex County, Massachusetts*

- Review of the various towns in and outside of Essex County where the accused were from

## Overview of Resources

### Resources on [www.AmericanAncestors.org](http://www.AmericanAncestors.org)

- Massachusetts Vital Records to 1620-1850
- Massachusetts Probate Files
- *The Essex Genealogist*
- *The Essex Antiquarian*
- *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*
- AmericanAncestors.org Digital Library & Archives

### Salem Witch Trials Documentary Archive and Transcription Project – University of Virginia

- Court Records
- Holdings from various Archives
- Notable People

### Published Biographies of the Accused

The following two volumes represent the most detailed account of those executed and accused during the Salem Witchcraft trials.

- Otten, Marjorie Wardwell, *The Witch Hunt of 1692. A Tragedy in Massachusetts* (Del Mar, CA: Moko, 1990).
- Nagy, Kimberly Ormsby, MD, *Associated Daughters of Early American Witches Roll of Ancestors* (Salt Lake City, UT: Family Heritage Publishers, 2012).

### Hereditary Societies

- Associated Daughters of Early American Witches (1987) <https://www.adeaw.us/>
- Son of a Witch (1975, revised 2012) [no website currently available]

## Online Resources

Salem Witch Trials. Documentary Archive and Transcription Project (University of Virginia)

<https://saalem.lib.virginia.edu/home.html>

Associated Daughters of Early American Witches <https://www.adeaw.us/tips>

Bibliography from the University of Chicago

<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/collex/exhibits/salem-witch-trials-legal-resources/related-resources/>

A Guide to Primary Sources of the Salem Witchcraft Trials

<http://www.17thc.us/primarysources/index.php>

Witches of Massachusetts Bay - <https://www.witchesmassbay.com/research/>

Salem Witchcraft Trials at the Boston Public Library  
<https://guides.bpl.org/salemwitchtrials/resourcesatthebpl>

Cornell University – Witchcraft Collection <https://rmc.library.cornell.edu/witchcraftcoll/>

The Salem Witch Museum <https://salemwitchmuseum.com/>

Descendant Packets from the Salem Witch Museum Store  
<https://salemwitchmuseum.com/product/descendant-packet/>

The Salem Witch Museum Blog: <https://salemwitchmuseum.com/blog/>

Video with Emerson W. Baker and Marilynne K. Roache on Proctors Ledge: Gallows Hill:  
<http://cc.satvonline.org/Cablecast/Public/Show.aspx?ChannelID=2&ShowID=10319>

Witches of Massachusetts Bay Blog <https://www.witchesmassbay.com/blog/>

Online Video Tours of sites for the Salem Witchcraft: <https://salemwitchmuseum.com/witch-trials-guided-tour-list/>

Road trips relating to the Salem Witchcraft Trials: <https://www.witchesmassbay.com/roadtrips/>