



SALEM MEN



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Title: Salem Men

Historical Question: Which men were targeted in the Salem Witch Trials? For what reason were they targeted and killed?

The Salem Witch trial were the most remembered trial when women were covered in Colonial history. Settlements were already in progression. Knowing the traditional story with Sarah Good and John Proctor, I always thought it was puzzling to know why these exact families were targeted. Knowing the time, land was always a reason for men to fight, but other factors were always could have played a part in the Salem Witch Trials.

Salem Village versus Salem Town

During this time of the Salem Witch Trials the city of Salem was divided into two different areas. The Salem Village, also known as Salem Farms, were populated by poor farmers whom earned a living by cultivating the fields. On the other hand, Salem Town was an enriched

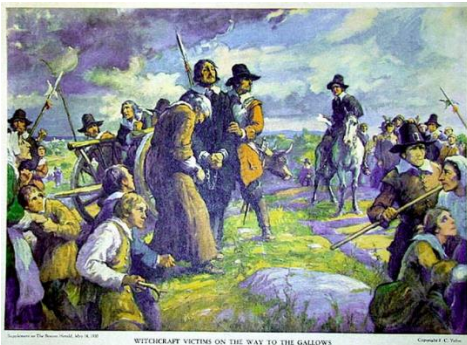


port town, which flourished by trading with London, making the population wealthy merchants. Even though the Salem Witch Trials were surrounded by racial and religious beliefs, Salem Village did not have a legitimate church or priest until 1674. As the

separation of the two areas, the population who lived near the commerce of Salem Town, Ipswich Road, were categorized as the merchants, such as innkeepers, blacksmiths and carpenters. This population prospered and supporting the transition of economic change. The

people whom lived farther away from Ipswich Road were mainly farmers, they felt like the economic change was going to alter the Puritan values. With the Puritan values being threatened by economic involvement, “the majority of the villager’s accused lived near the Ipswich Road, whereas the accusers lived in the distant farms of Salem Village,” as stated by the Salem Witch Trials Life in Salem 1692. Then when Reverend Samuel Paris was titles as the new minister of Salem Village. Reverend Paris had a strong belief in Puritan values, he illustrated the new economic ways were the influence of the Devil. The new rhetoric figure greatly increased the separation of the two areas within Salem Village.

George Burroughs – Wells, Maine – Hung on August 19th, 1692



George B. was the only Puritan minister who was executed during the Salem Witch Trials. In his lifetime, he held the ministry in Salem Village from 1680 until he voluntary left in 1683. He was able to leave Salem Village before the Salem Witch Trials was initiated. He was connected to the Putnam family because Burroughs had borrowed money from the family and was not able to repay his debts, which led to his departure of Salem Village. Even though he was able to repay to the money, twelve years later, he was charged and brought back from Wells, Maine. He was considered the ring leader, as a possessed priest of the Devil. Many members of Salem Village and Andover testified again him. Cotton Mather took particular interest in his trial because of his unorthodox religious beliefs and practices in the church. Once he was hung, his hanging was the only one attended by Cotton Mather who urged the sympathetic crowd against him.

John Willard – Salem Village – Hung on August 19th, 1692

John W. was accused of witchcraft at the end April of 1692. He was accused of witchcraft, when he would not arrest people who were accused of witchcraft. The main accuser, who led to his arrest, was his wife's grandfather, Bray Wilkins, who claimed that after he looked at him with an evil glare, resulted in his becoming immediately sick. While he testified the sickness was John's fault, the symptoms suggested Bray was suffering from kidney stones. Even though kidney



stones are an internal and not contagious sickness, the coincidence was evidence enough for the population to become traumatically fearful of John. This led to his hanging, but John was able to stay true to the church and kept his innocence.

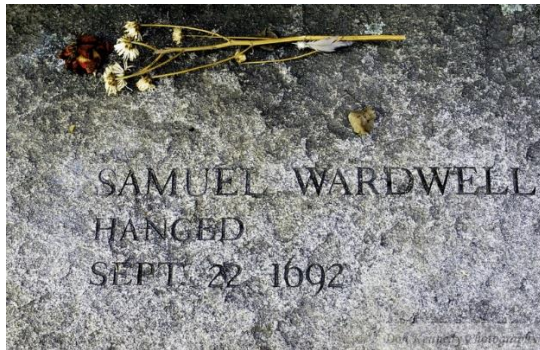
Giles Corey – Salem Farms – Pressed to Death on September 22nd, 1692

Giles C. was accused by many familiar names in the Salem Witch Trial, such as, Ann Putnam, Marcy Lewis, Abigail Williams, Mary Walcott and Elizabeth Hubbar. These women accused Giles but, he pleaded against the charges. While he told the court he was not guilty and refused to be tried for witchcraft, his refusal determined the charges as guilty in the eyes of the court. Murder was one of the charges, from his past, which worked against him in court. Once he refused and was marked guilty by the court, the court sentence him to *peine forte de dure*, even though it was an illegal punishment.



Samuel Wardwell – Andover, Maine – Hung on September 22nd, 1692

Samuel Wardwell, unlike most of the families, was born outside of Salem in Boston by a Quaker family. As he grew older, he studied carpentry and left Boston in search for work. He moved and met his wife, Sarah Hawkins, in Andover, Massachusetts. He later had seven children



with his wife. He had many factors working against him in court, such as, cheating people with fake fortune telling, negative family ties in Andover and marrying a widow. While he was being trialed in court, he was confessed to doing witch craft.

These men were categorized as witches in this age because they had faults as human beings. No one in this world is perfect but these men were just dealt a bad hand and paid the price. They had their words twisted to be proven guilty, had a bad past which came to haunt them or had bad family ties. Delusional and lying girls led these men to their deaths, but overall history can claim karma came back to answer for the unholy deeds they tried to keep secret.

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Gave me details about Samuel Wardwell's life and what led him to his death. Provided a full essay for an explanation.
- Nichols, Amy, and Elizabeth Whelan. "Salem Witch Trials Notable Persons." George Burroughs. January 01, 2002. Accessed December 04, 2014.
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This site was able to give a brief summary of what happened to George Burroughs. It was able to provide a very thorough essay and images in order for me to get the full context of the individual.
- Snyder, Heather. "Salem Witch Trials Notable Persons." Giles Corey. May 28, 2001. Accessed December 04, 2014. <http://salem.lib.virginia.edu/people?group.num=all&mbio.num=mb6>.
Provided me with details and an explanation which led G. Corey to his grave. Also provided pictures and an essay for context.
- Sutter, Tim. "Salem Witch Trials." Victims of the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. June 01, 2009. Accessed December 04, 2014. <http://www.salemwitchtrials.com/victims.html>.
This website shared a brief list of the people who were killed in the Salem Witch Trials. It was able to give the name of the person, day they were killed and how they were killed.
- Unknown. "Life in Salem 1692: Economic and Social Divisions." Discovery Education. April 12, 2008. Accessed December 03, 2014.
<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schooladventures/salemwitchtrials/life/divisions.html>.
This website was able to tell me the conflict in the demographic area. Gave details for the difference between Salem Village and Salem Town. Provided a map for further detail of the region.
- Unknown. "Salem Witch Trials." Welcome to Salem, Massachusetts. June 27, 2005. Accessed December 04, 2014. <http://www.salemweb.com/memorial/?i=2>.

This website was able to provide me with pictures of graves. I used these pictures in representation of the men I used for my paper.

Williams, Joclyn. "Salem Witch Trials Notable Persons." Salem Witch Trials Notable Persons. January 01, 2002. Accessed December 04, 2014.

<http://saalem.lib.virginia.edu/people?group.num=all&mbio.num=mb34>.

Gave a summary and full essay. Allowed me to go into further detail about the individual and why he was killed in the Salem Witch Trials.