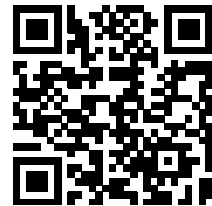


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Massachusetts Bay Colony's Influence on Salem Witch Trials



The Salem Witch Trials were a series of hearings and _____ of people accused of witchcraft in colonial Massachusetts between February 1692 and May 1693. The _____ took place in several towns, but the most notorious were conducted in Salem Village. The _____ Bay Colony played a significant role in these events. The colony was founded in 1628 and had a strong _____ influence. This religious background fueled the fear of the supernatural and the devil, which was prevalent during the _____ trials. In Salem Village, a group of young girls claimed to be possessed by the devil and accused several local women of _____. This led to a wave of hysteria and fear. The colonial government of Massachusetts Bay _____ established a special court to handle the growing number of accusations. The court was called the _____ of Oyer and Terminer. Many people were brought to trial, and the court relied on spectral _____, which is testimony that the spirit or specter of the accused was seen committing _____. The governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony at the time, Sir William Phips, eventually intervened. In _____ 1692, Phips dissolved the Court of Oyer and Terminer and replaced it with a new court that did not allow spectral _____. This action helped bring an end to the trials. By May 1693, the remaining accused were released from _____. The Salem Witch Trials are remembered as a dark period in American history and are often cited as an example of the dangers of _____, religious extremism, and the lack of due process.

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